THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

18

GAKU TSUGANO (ART BY)
NAGARU TANIGAWA (STORY BY)
CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

Kadokawa Comics A

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Yen Press

A new school year means fresh blood for the SOS Brigade! But not just anyone can join this elite group of alien, time traveler, and esper-hunters! As Haruhi puts the new recruits through their paces in one timeline, the veteran members visit the alling Yuki in another. Yuki reveals that her illness may be the work of other humanoid interfaces like herself, but when Kyon rushes to confront them, he runs into a familiar face he had hoped he would never see again...!

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OLDER TEEN OT LV

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NAGATO-SAN IS RESTING AT THE MOMENT, ISN'T SHE?
HENCE MY APPEARANCE.
I AM HER BACKUP, AFTER ALL.
IF SHE CAN'T, THEN THAT MEANS I'M UP.
THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK, YOU KNOW.

18
THE MELANCHOLY of
HARUHI SUZUMIYA
ORIGINAL STORY
NAGARU TANIGAWA
MANGA
GAKU TSUGANO
CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOIZI ITO

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...
CAN'T ACT...

NAGATO ...

SO BAD THAT I HAD TO RELY ON A KILLER FOR HELP.

THIS WAS BAD— REALLY BAD.

HOW INTER-ESTING.
IF YOU DIED HERE, I WONDER HOW SHE WOULD REACT.

SO YOU'RE A HUMANOID TERMINAL FOR THIS HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN, ARE YOU?

SHE'S STILL THE SAME OLD CLASS REP!
SHE SAYS THESE THINGS LIKE SHE'S MAKING SMALL TALK.

WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S QUIET, HERE... TOO QUIET.

THE WORLD HAD COME TO A HALT.

IT WAS A TRAP— BUT FOR WHOM?

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE INTER-FERING.

THIS WAY NO ONE CAN OBSERVE US, CAN THEY?

NO ONE CAN ESCAPE.

MANIPU-LATION OF SPACIAL INFORMATION IS MY SPECIALTY.

NOW THEN, KUYOH-SAN.

SHALL WE TALK?

OR SHALL WE FIGHT?

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE JUST WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF. THAT'S PART OF MY JOB TOO.

IT IS NOT YOU.

THREAT LEVEL HIGH...

...

RE-LEASE THAT HUMAN.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU.

YOU ARE NOT IM-POR-TANT.

YOUR INTENT TO KILL, GEN-UINE.

YURARI (FLICK)

YOU'RE HURTING MY FEELINGS.

BUT IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT...

THREAT IN-CREASED BY TWO LEVELS.

BISHI (WHAP)

!?

NICELY DONE.

THREAT LEVEL STILL RISING.

THIS WILL BE INTER-ESTING.

THAT WAS JUST A PROBE, BUT IT DID EXCEED YOUR ESTIMATED CAPACITY.

GU (STRAIN) ぎゅ GU

THE MOVEMENT WAS INSTAN-TANEOUS!

SHE THREW THE KNIFE USING JUST HER WRIST?

EXPANDING RANGE OF DATA CONTROL.

COM-MENCING DEPLOY-MENT OF OFFENSIVE DATA.

SHIFTING TO TER-MINATION MODE.

REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED-SPACE COMBAT SIMULATION FOR ANALYSIS OF TARGET.

CHIRI

CHIRI

CHIRI (ZZT)

CHIRI

(BAKAA (CRAACK)

WHOOOA!?
THE SCENERY'S SHATTERING!
GUOOOO (CRRRUMBLE)
I'M SEEING THE INSANE GEOMETRY OF ASAKURA'S DATA JURISDICTION SPACE...
...FOR THE SECOND TIME NOW!

MOVE AWAY FROM THAT HUMAN.
オオ
OOOO (RUMBLE)
オ
オ
オ
GIRI (STRAIN)
THREAT LEVEL STABI-LIZED.
GIRI
OOO
GIRI
YOU ARE IRRELE-VANT.
GYUN (ZOOM)
PA (FWIP)
ぱっ

KUN (SPIN)
BASHI (WHAP)
!?
KIMIDORI-SAN!?

YOUR ACTIONS ARE NOT FOUNDED ON THE CONSENSUS OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

I'VE COME TO STOP YOUR DEVIANT ACTIVITIES.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?

I CANNOT AUTHORIZE THIS.

REALLY.

OH, REALLY?

WOULD YOU GIVE THAT BACK?

IS THAT SO? FINE.

BI
(FLICK)
GYUN
(ZOOM)
HYUN
(WHIZ)
GOO
(WHOOSH)

PITA (SMACK)

SHE TURNED FLAT AND... DISAP-PEARED?

IT'S LIKE A LASER!

WHEN DID THE KNIFE RETURN TO HER HAND?

NO... SHE IS STILL HERE.

DID SHE ES-CAPE?

IF ASAKURA-SAN HADN'T GRABBED IT, I WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED!

DID SHE ACTUALLY SAVE ME...?

HYU (SHOO)

GA
(SNATCH)
HYUGOO
(WHOOM)
PITA

KUYOH-SAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THIS HUMAN?

GIRI (STRAIN)

GIRI

DO YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?

OR DO YOU WANT TO LET HIM LIVE?

QUERY MEANING UNCLEAR.

DEFINE "HU-MAN."

DEFINE "KILL." DEFINE "LIVE."

DEFINE ...

...AN-SWER.

YOU HAVE LOVELY FEATURES, KUYOH-SAN.

I WILL NOT YIELD A SINGLE THING TO THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN. NOT EVEN THE LIFE OF THIS HUMAN.

GIRI

GIRI

BUT LET'S END THIS, SHALL WE?

...ARE THESE DEMIGODS TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT THE HELL...

GIRI

COMMENCING OFFENSIVE DATA STRIKE.

BACHI (CRACKLE)

DEFINE ...

...DATA OVER-MIND...

SHAAA (SHOOO)

AAAA

ANSWER.

DEFINE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN ...

WHAT KIND OF SMILE IS THAT?

SO CLEAR, SO BEAUTIFUL...

TANIGUCHI WOULD'VE GONE FOR IT IN A HEARTBEAT.

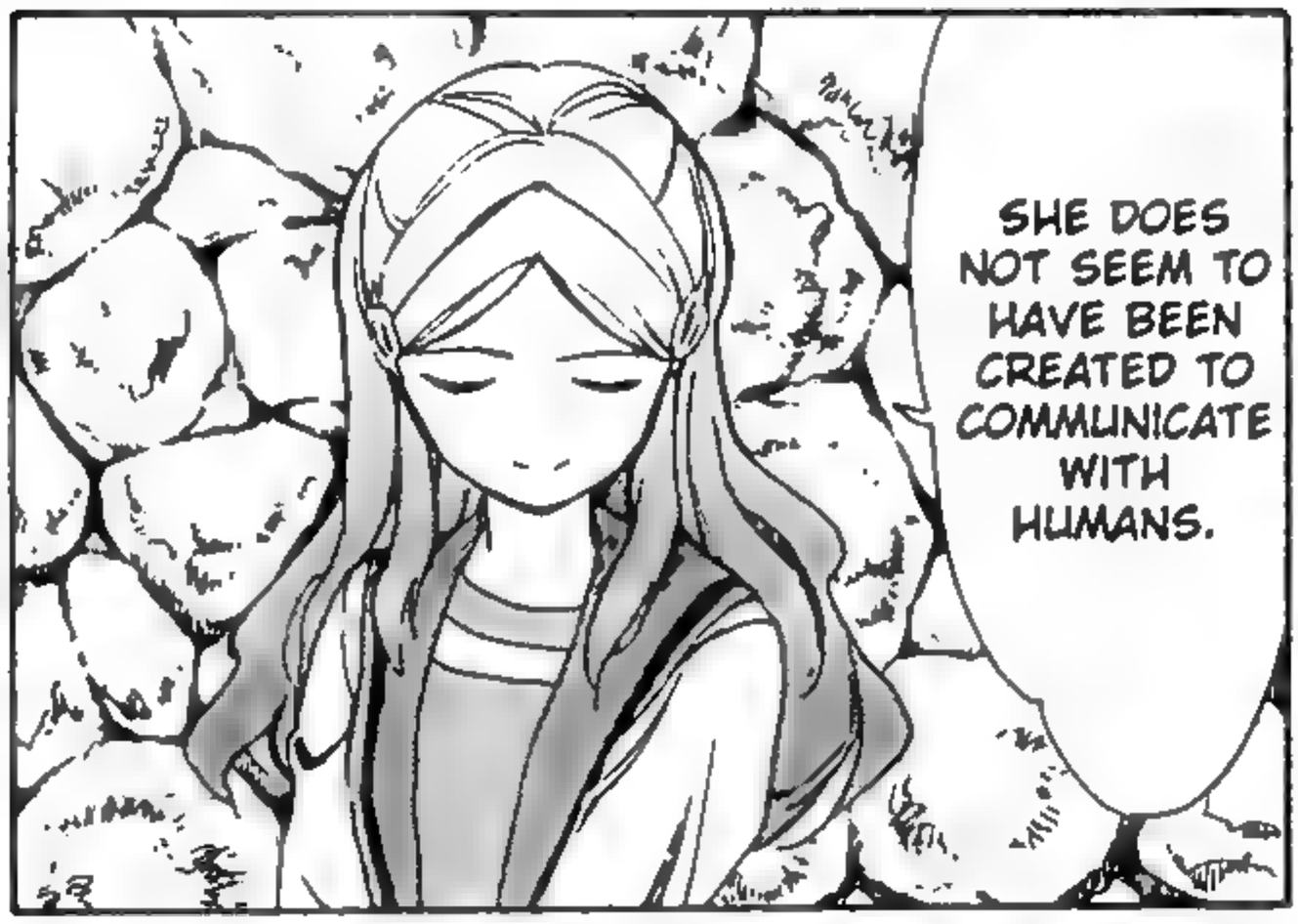
ANYONE COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT SMILE.

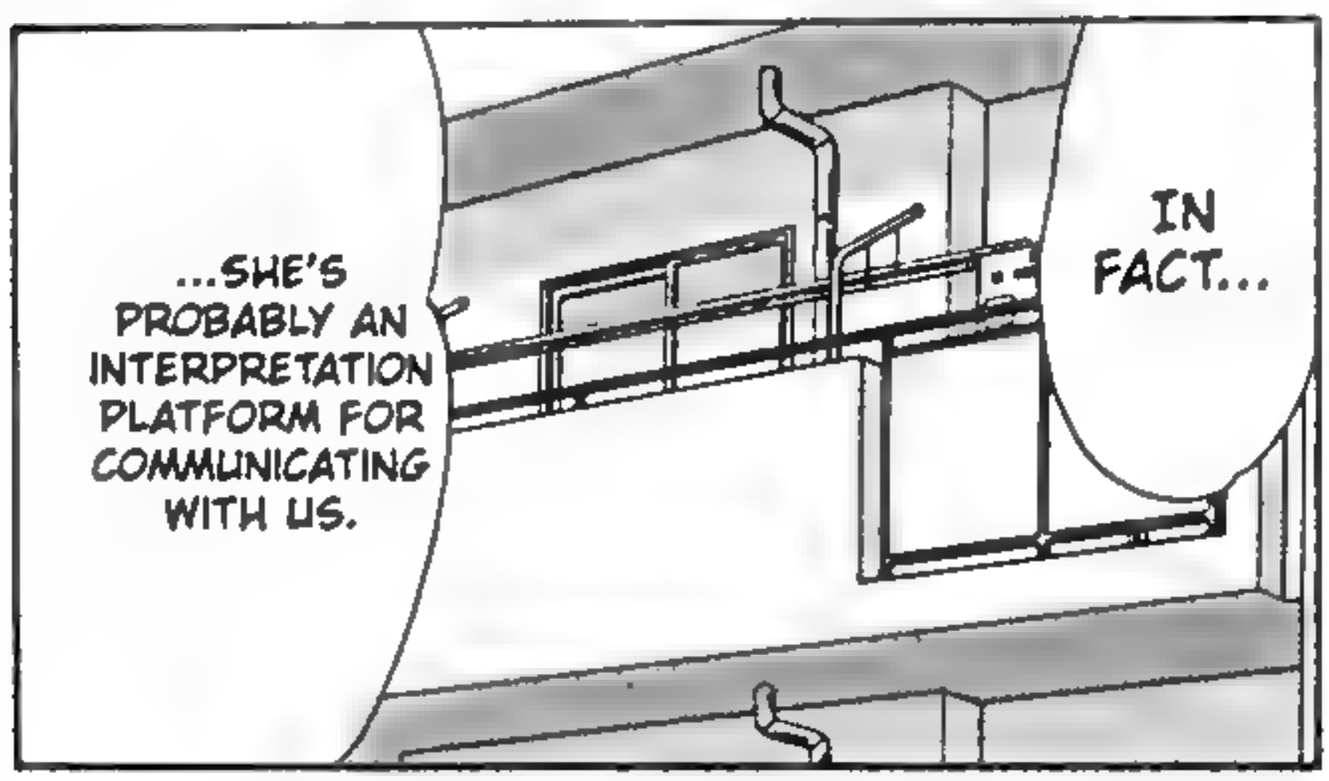
GOAAAAAAAA (WHOOOOOO)

DID SHE ACTUALLY ESCAPE THIS TIME?

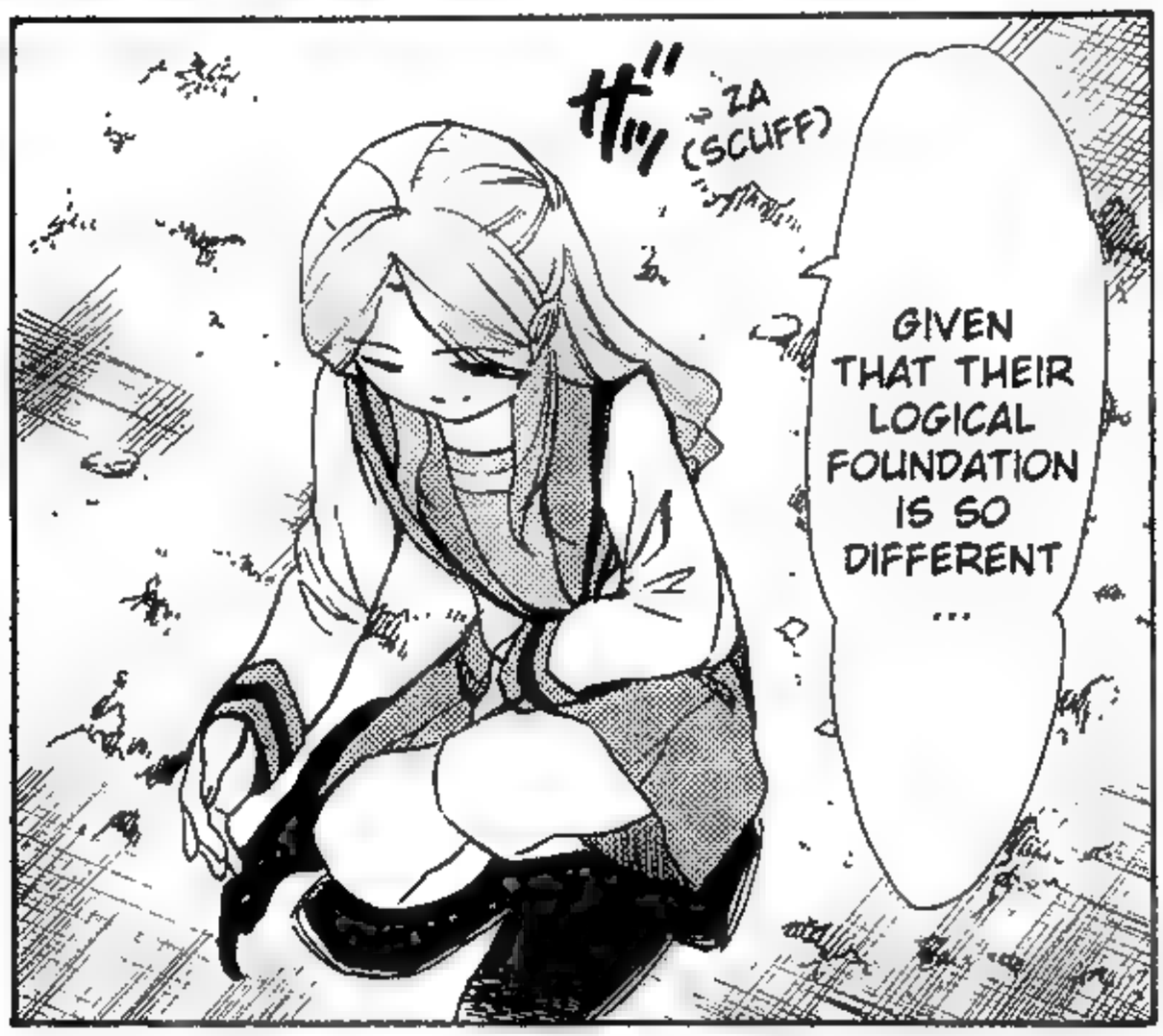
A SHIFT IN THE PHYSICAL DIMEN-SIONALITY OF HER CORPOREAL DATA...

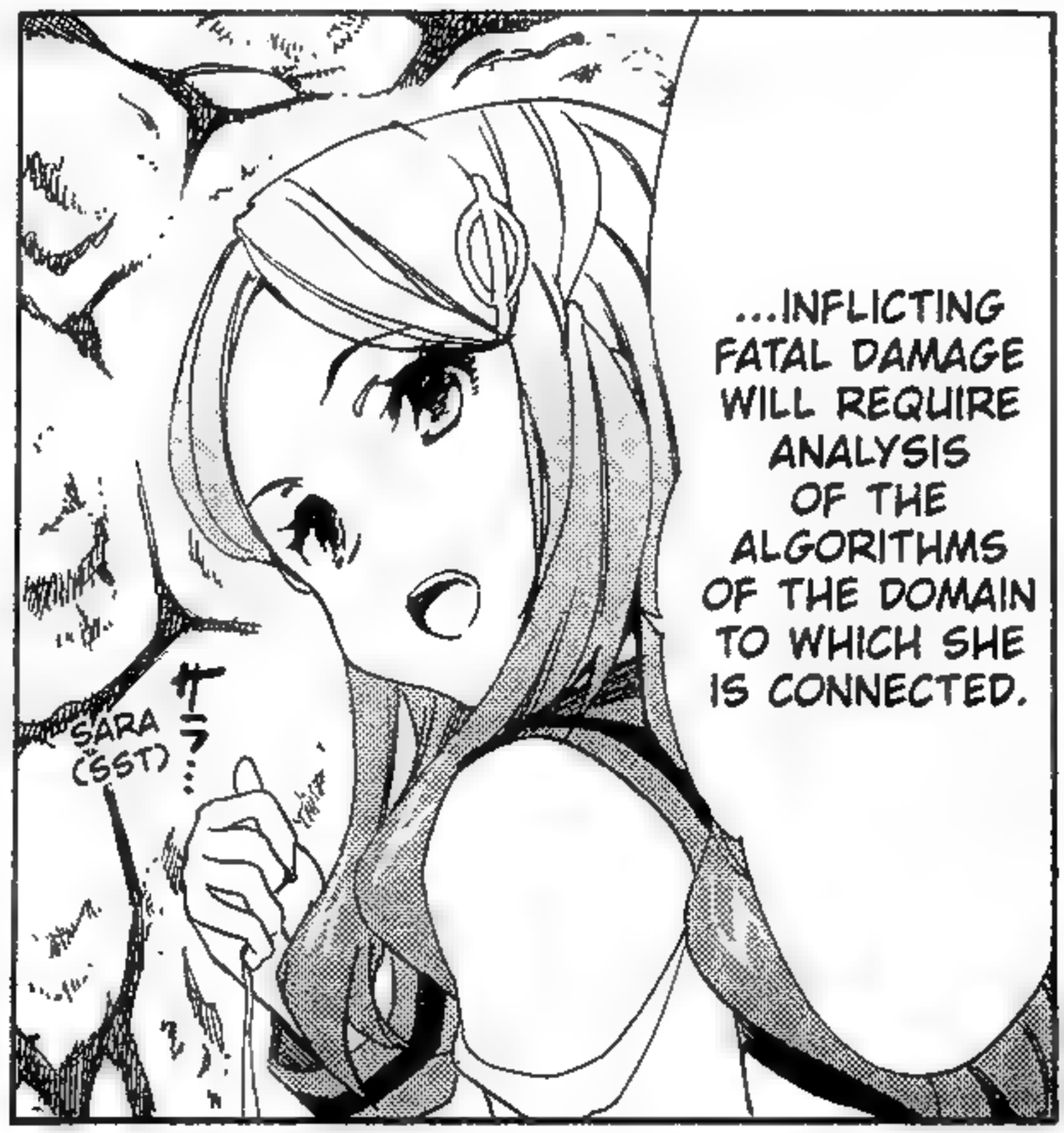
I AM CURRENTLY TRACKING THE TARGET AND REPAIRING LOCAL SPACE.



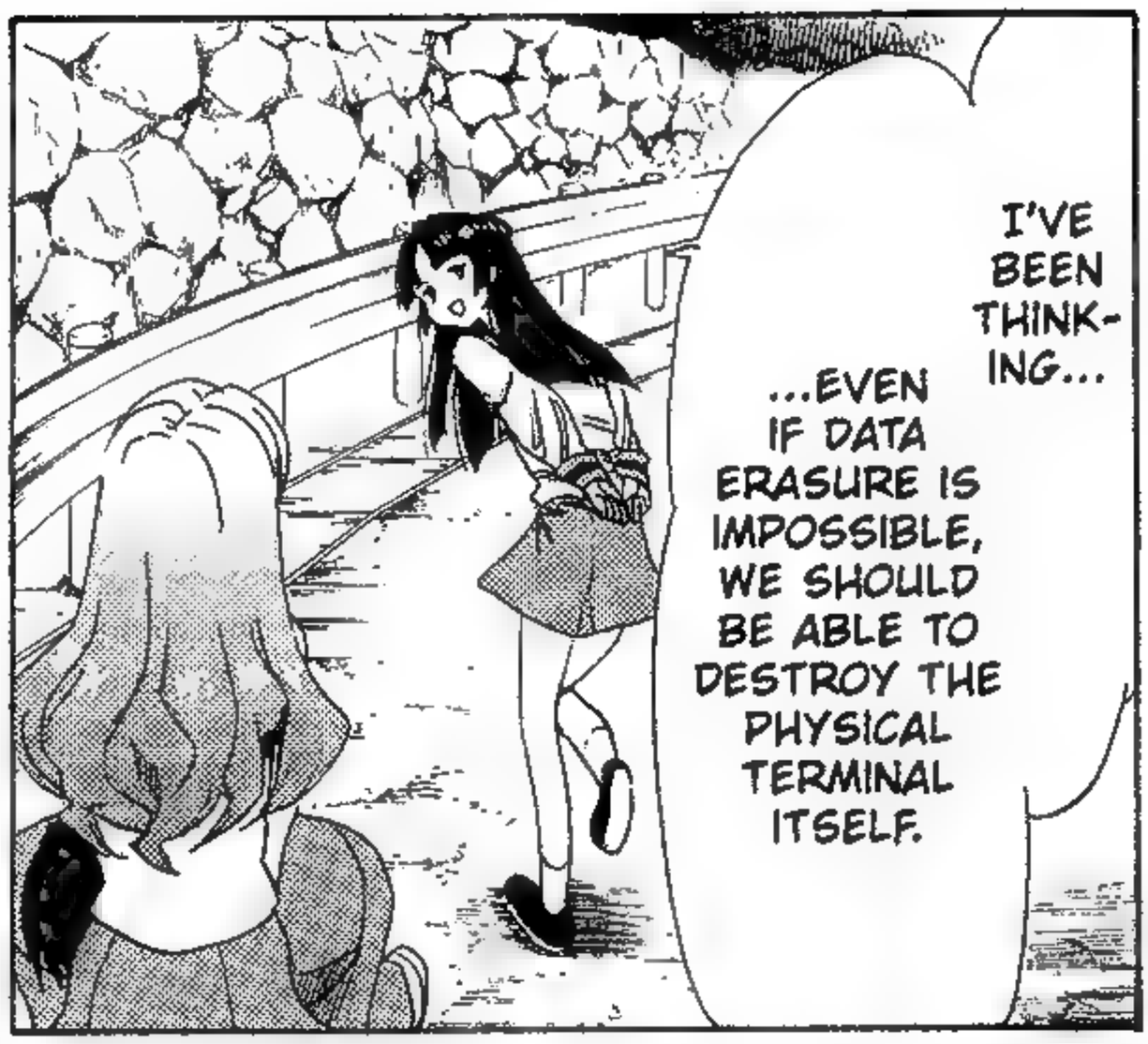


HER INTEREST IN HARUHI SUZUMIYA PROBABLY COMES FROM OBSERVING THE DATA OVERMIND.

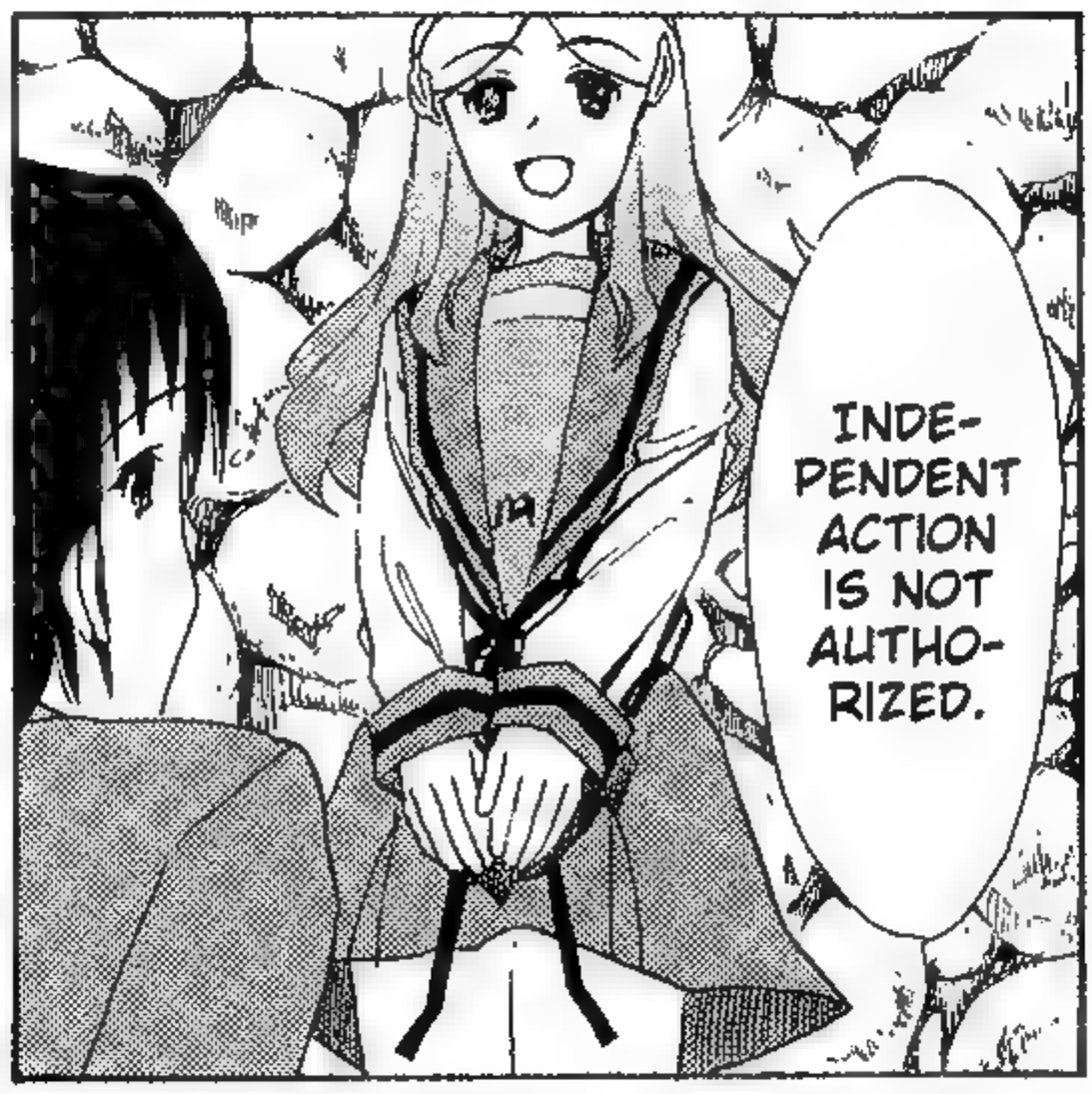




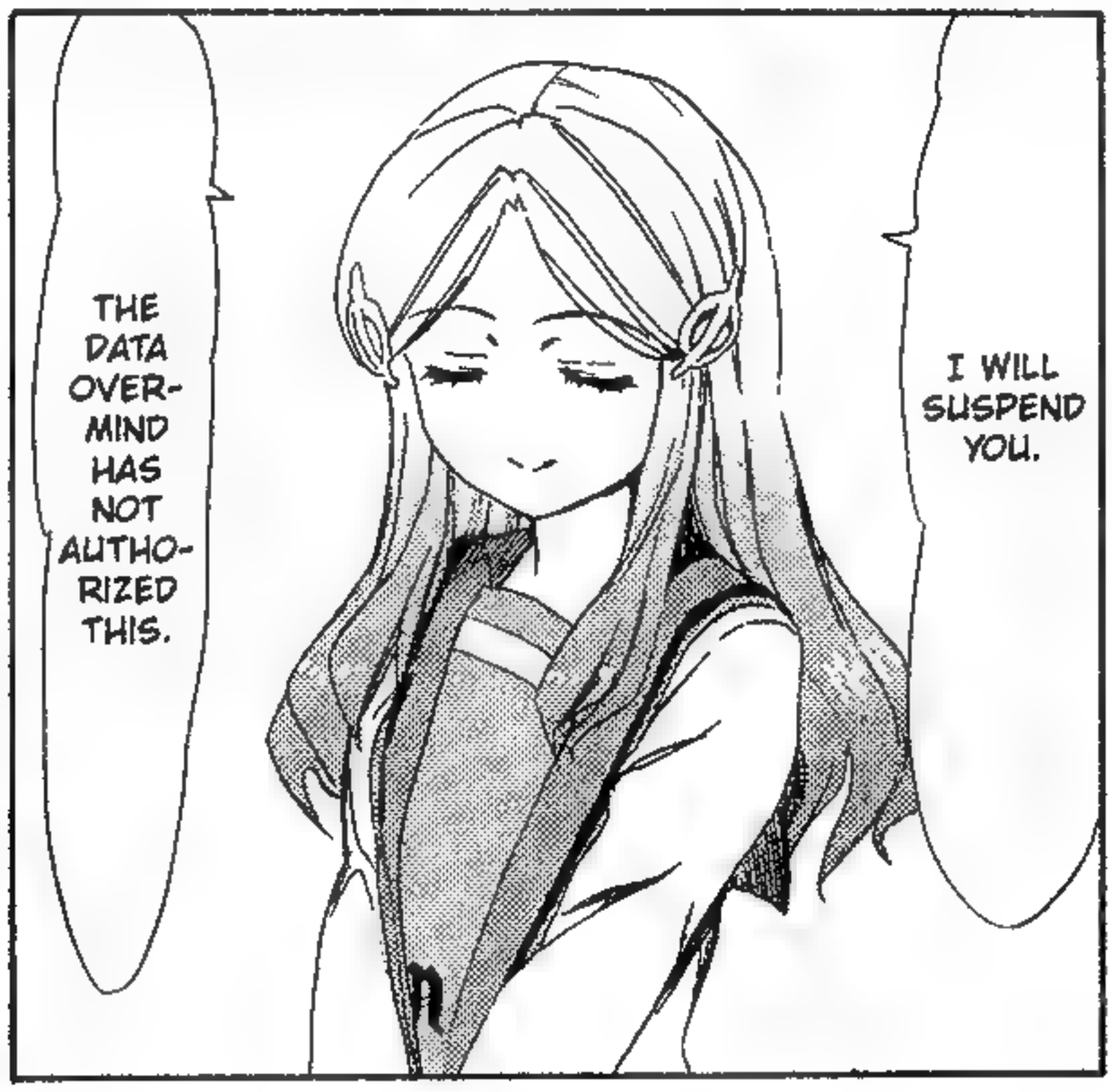
WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO PICK UP ALL THE FRAGMENTS AND ANALYZE THE GREATER STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM?


I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
...EVEN IF DATA ERASURE IS IMPOSSIBLE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE PHYSICAL TERMINAL ITSELF.

BUT I THINK AT THE MOMENT SHE WOULD BE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH ME.
YOU SOUND LIKE NAGATO-SAN.


INDE-PENDENT ACTION IS NOT AUTHO-RIZED.

GOOD-NESS.
AND JUST WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE DATA OVERMIND'S REPRESEN-TATIVE?


THE DATA OVER-MIND HAS NOT AUTHO-RIZED THIS.
I WILL SUSPEND YOU.

SHE PROPOSED THE TRANS-FER.
AND IT WAS APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL CONSCIOUS-NESS OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

THE INTERFACE DESIGNATED YUKI NAGATO TRANSFERRED A SUBSET OF HER AUTONOMOUS JUDGMENT HEURISTICS TO ME.

MY ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE OVERMIND.

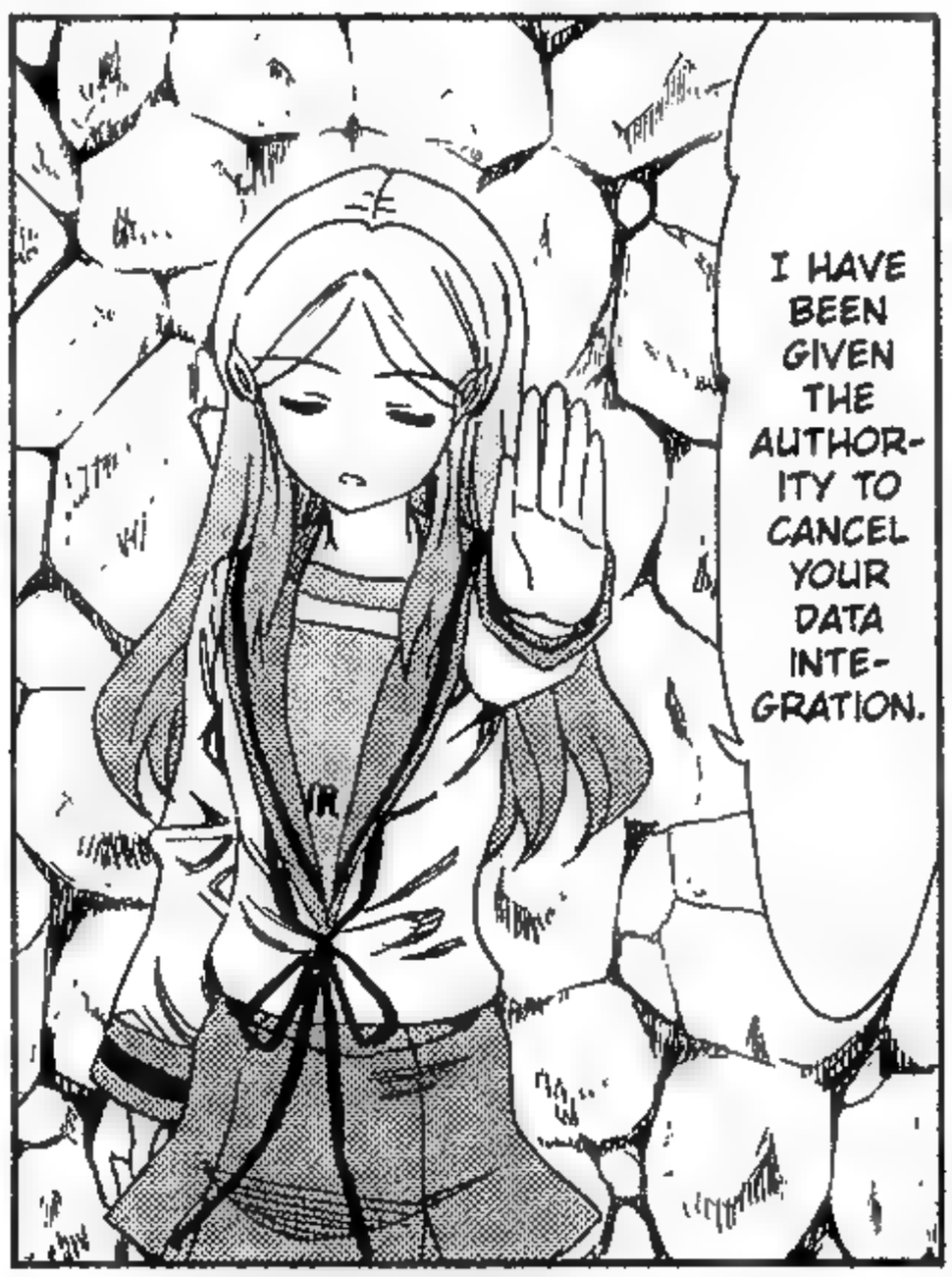
BOTH.
OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO PUT ME IN THE MINORITY?
YOU MEAN THOSE LAZY CONSER-VATIVES DESPERATE TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO?
"CON-SENSUS" ...?

...YOU ARE A BACKUP RESOURCE TO BE DEPLOYED ONLY IN EMERGENCIES.

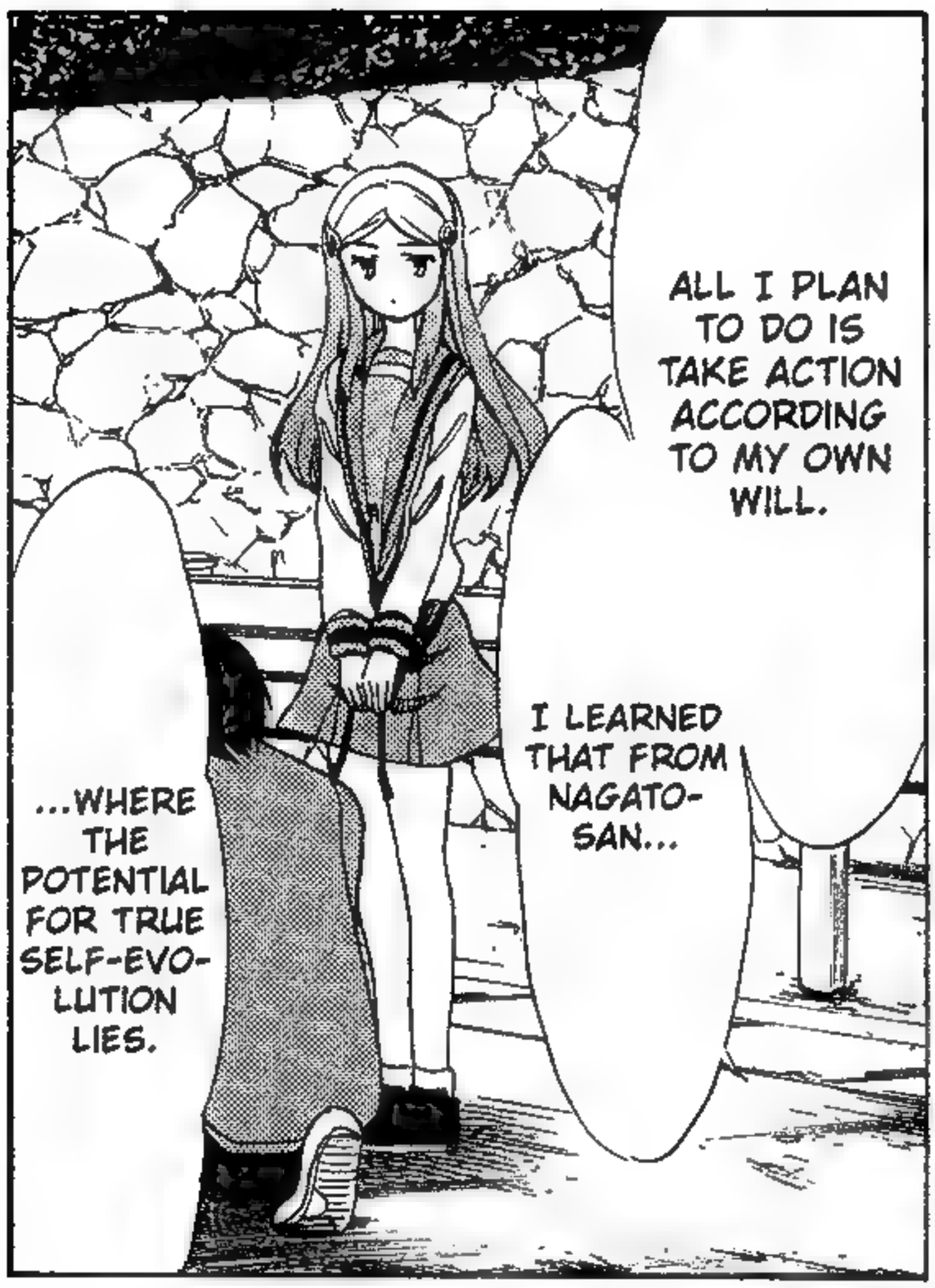
HEE HEE HEE ...
MY BEHAVIOR PATTERNS ARE UNCHANGED FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ALIGNMENT AND HAVE STILL NOT BEEN OVERWRITTEN.

YOUR UTILITY IS ONLY SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THE RISKS YOU POSE.
YUKI NAGATO AND I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED ONLY THAT YOUR ABILITIES ARE NECESSARY IN A LIMITED CAPACITY.

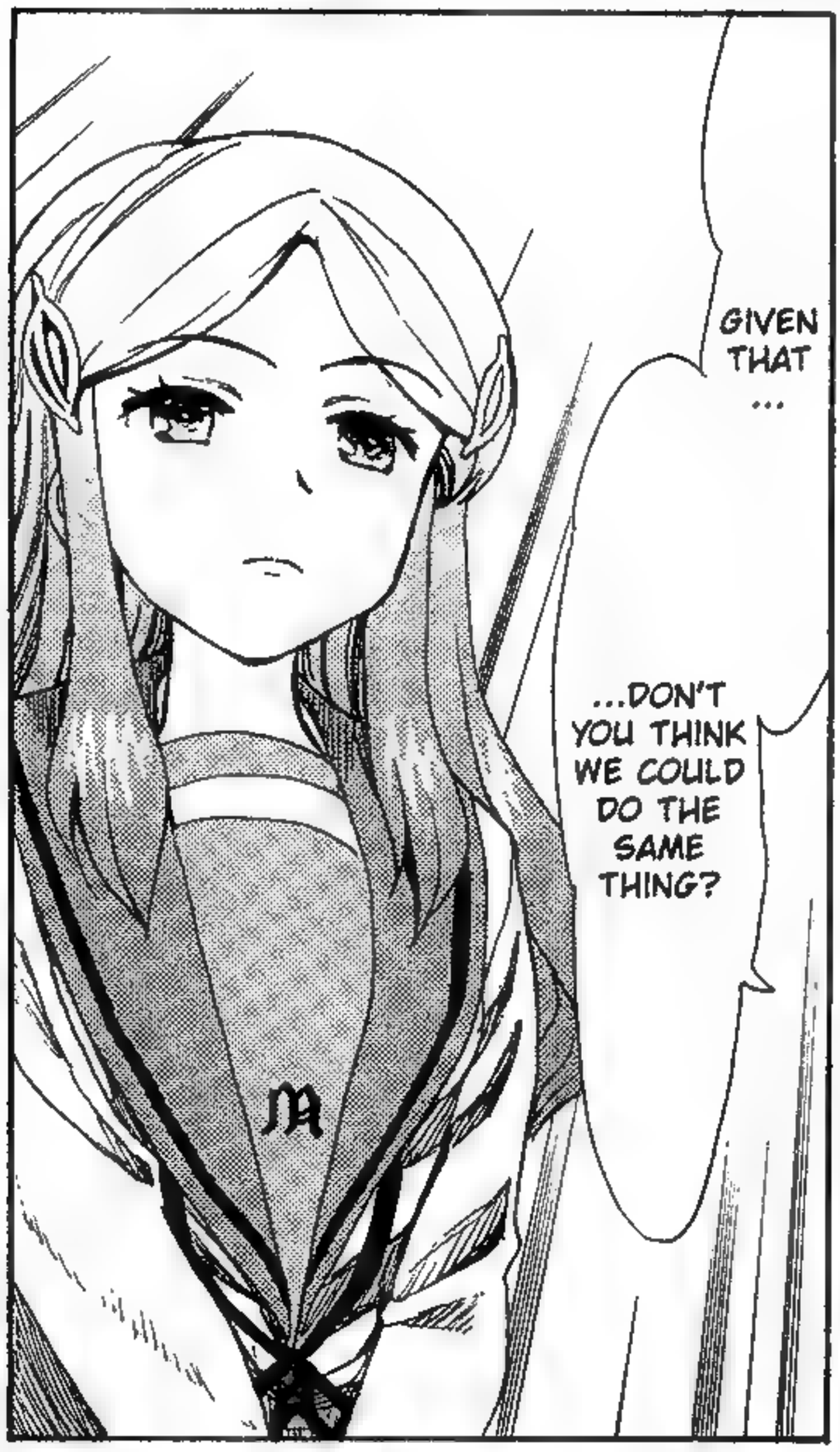
KYU (TUG)
キュッ
...HUH.


I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO CANCEL YOUR DATA INTEGRATION.

I WAS REVIVED THANKS TO YOU.
SHOULD I THANK YOU, THEN?


ALL I PLAN TO DO IS TAKE ACTION ACCORDING TO MY OWN WILL.
I LEARNED THAT FROM NAGATO-SAN...
...WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR TRUE SELF-EVO-LUTION LIES.

FUU (SIGH)
FINE.
WHICH MEANS I CAN'T BEAT YOU.


GIVEN THAT ...
...DON'T YOU THINK WE COULD DO THE SAME THING?

DON'T YOU KNOW, KIMIDORI-SAN?
SHE'S NO LONGER A MERE TERMINAL.

ONE NAGATO'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT I'LL SAY THIS AGAIN ...
I APPRECIATE YOU STOPPING KUYOH'S ATTACK.
LIKE HELL YOU COULD.
TEE HEE HEE ...
HOW CRUEL YOU ARE!
WE DON'T NEED YOU, ASA-KURA!
ONE NAGATO IS ENOUGH.
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU USED TO BE.
IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO PUT A KNIFE TO MY THROAT, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO NAGATO'S PLACE AND MAKE HER SOME FOOD OR SOMETHING?
AND ANOTHER THING.

I CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS FORM FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

IT'S TOO BAD, HUH?

IS THAT THE WAY YOU TALK TO THE PERSON WHO SAVED YOU FROM THE EVIL ALIEN?

OR TRY ASKING NAGATO? IF SHE AGREES, I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO COME BACK FROM CANADA.

...TALK TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS UPPER-CLASSMAN AND THE MAJORITY FACTION OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

IF YOU HAVE COM-PLAINTS ...

TEE HEE HEE...

THAT'S TOO BAD.

YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP STUDYING ABROAD.

NO, THANKS.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HARUHI BUYING THAT KIND OF PLOT TWIST.

I WONDER IF YOU UNDER-STAND...

...THAT NAGATO-SAN AND I ARE LIKE OPPOSITE SIDES OF A MIRROR.

I'LL ALWAYS SHOW UP.

SO LONG AS THE SCARY GIRL OVER THERE DOESN'T STOP ME, THAT IS.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE MY LIMITED ACTIVITIES ARE ABOUT TO END.

CALL ME AGAIN SOMETIME.

PON (PAT)

THE INTERFACE IN FRONT OF YOU WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL.

I'M MUCH CLOSER TO HER THAN KIMIDORI-SAN IS.

WHY WON'T YOU TURN AROUND?

WHY WON'T YOU EVEN LOOK AT ME AND SAY GOOD-BYE?

ONE LOOK AT YOUR CLASS-REP SMILE, AND MY TERROR MIGHT VANISH...

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE AS BAD AS KUYOH.

I CAN'T MOVE, NO MATTER THE COST.

TA (TAP)

WELL, FINE.

RUDE TO THE VERY END, I SEE.

I'LL BE SEEING YOU.

ZA

ZA

ZA (STEP)

GOOD-BYE, THEN.

I GUESS ...

...IF I DON'T ASK, I'LL NEVER GET AN ANSWER.

THE AMBIENT SOUNDS RETURNED TO NORMAL.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, TIME STARTED MOVING AGAIN...

KIMI-DORI-SAN.

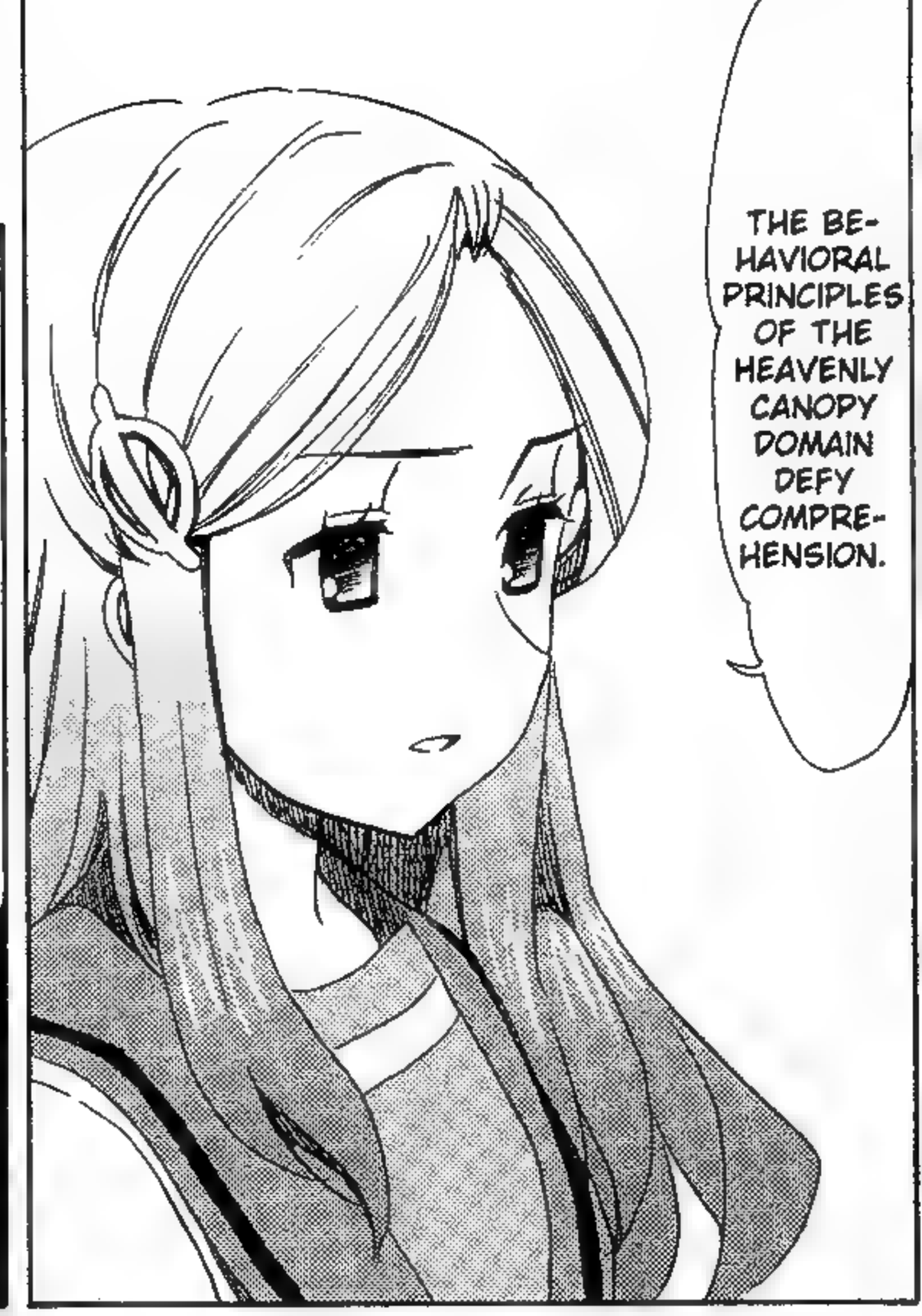
YES?

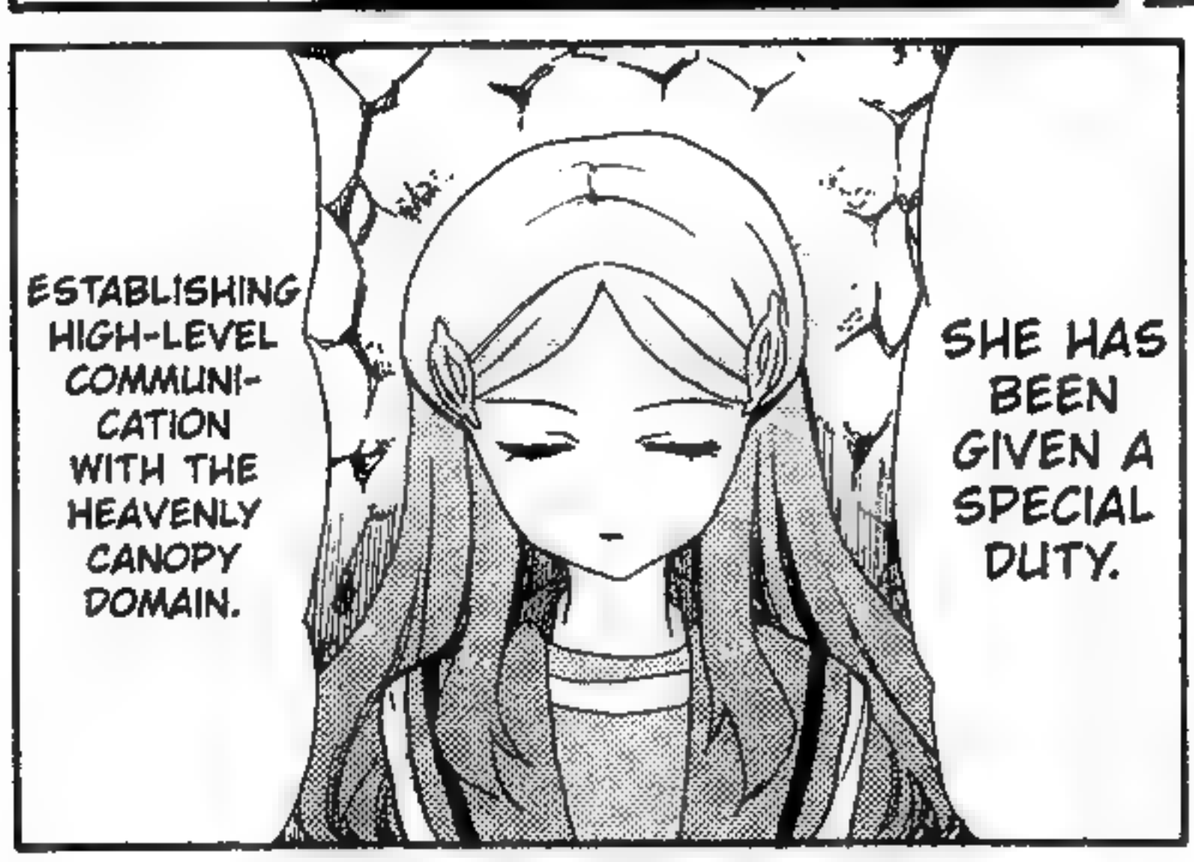
THAT... KUYOH. WHAT IS SHE?

HER ACTIONS MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL—IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S NOT HUMAN?

I CAN'T FIGURE HER OUT AT ALL.

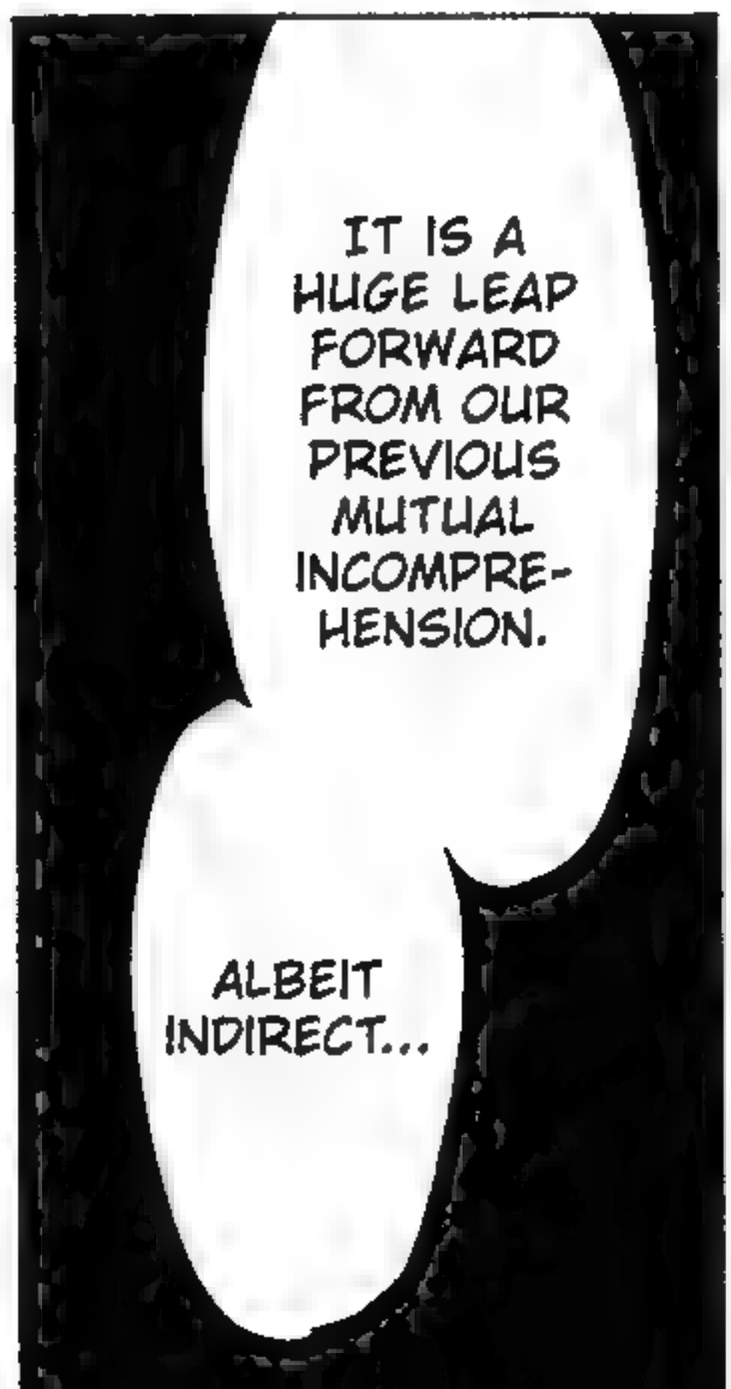
IT'S STILL DEBATABLE THAT IT IS A SENTIENT BEING.
IT IS NOT EVEN CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT IT CAN BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED AS LIFE.

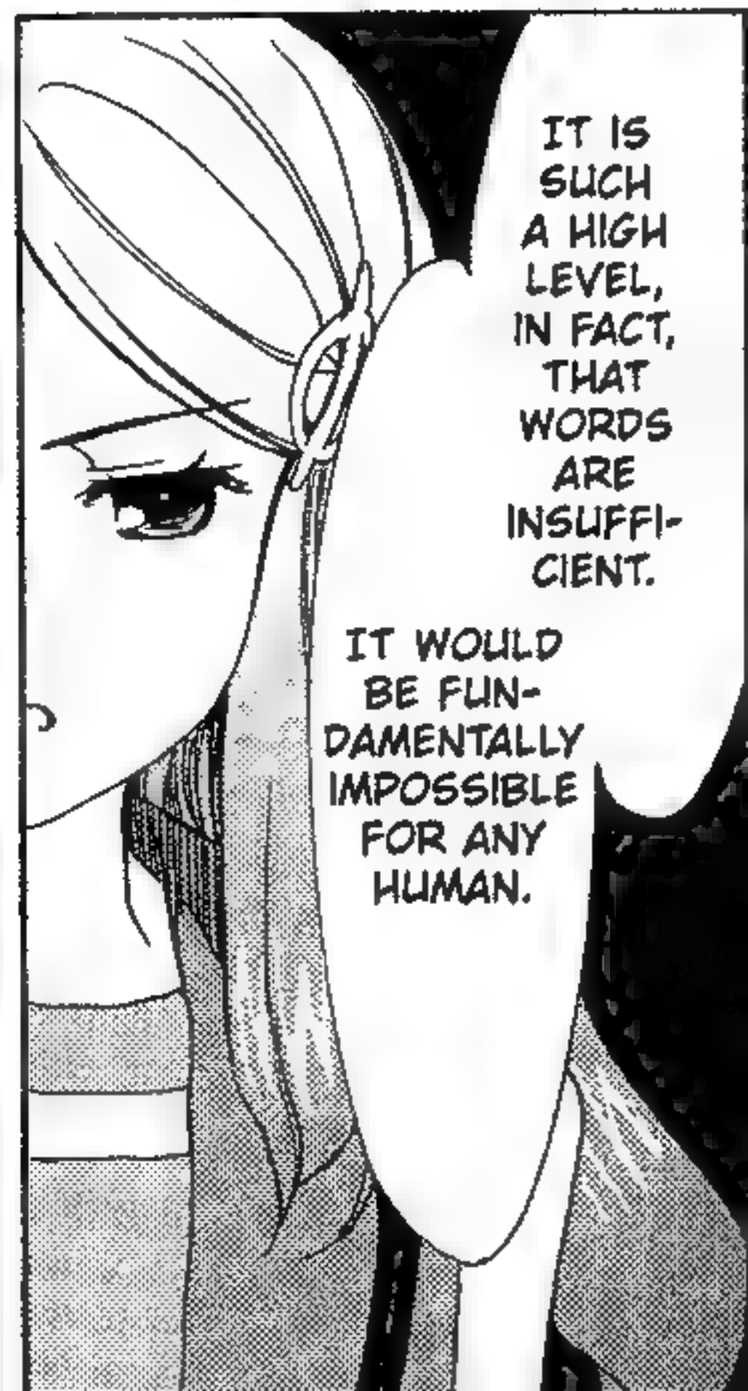

THE BEHAVIORAL PRINCIPLES OF THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN DEFY COMPREHENSION.


ESTABLISHING HIGH-LEVEL COMMUNICATION WITH THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN.
SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL DUTY.

CAN YOU AT LEAST DO SOMETHING ABOUT NAGATO'S FEVER?

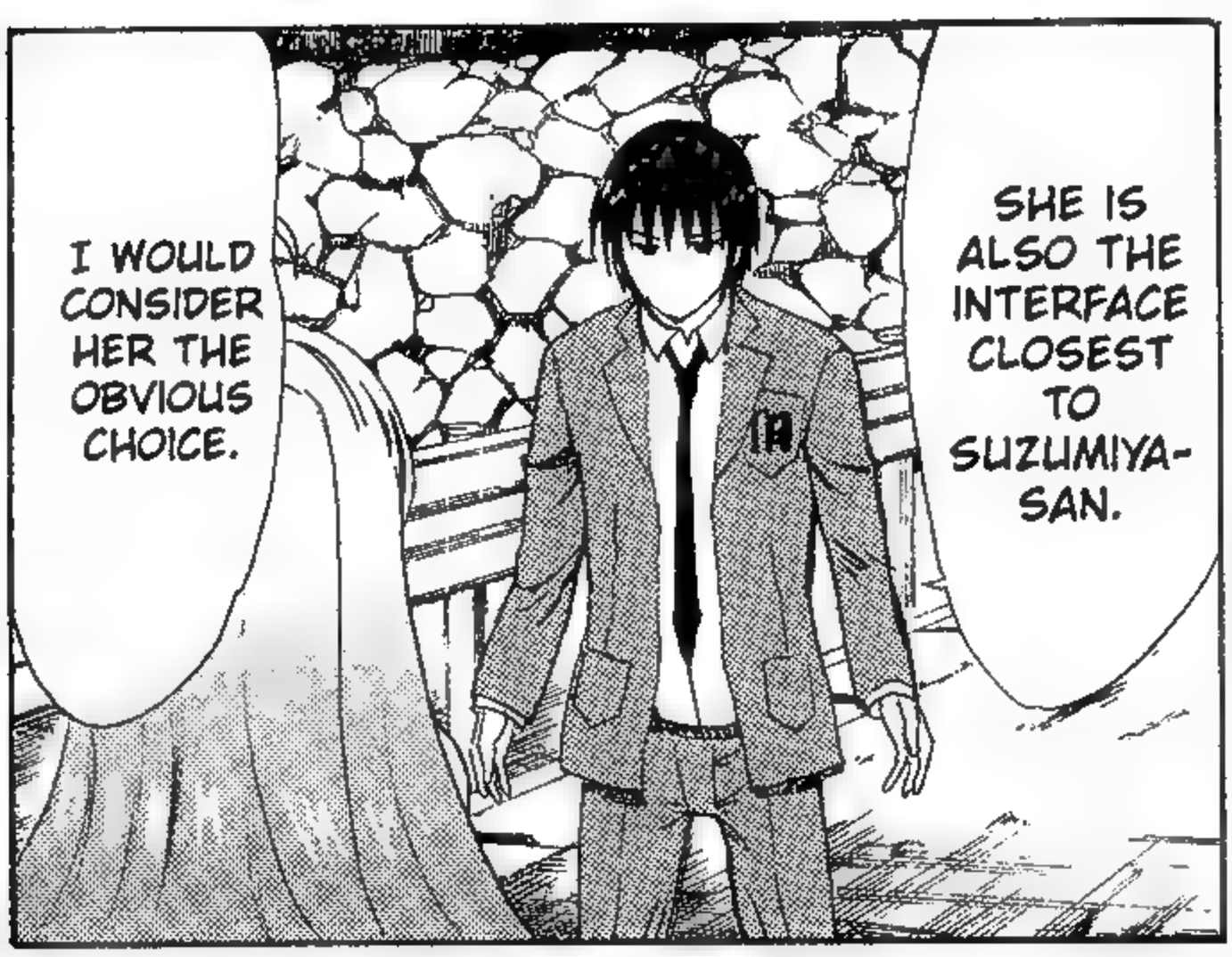
PLEASE WATCH OVER HER.
NAGATO-SAN SERVES AS A RELAY BETWEEN US AND THEM. SHE DOES SO EVEN NOW.

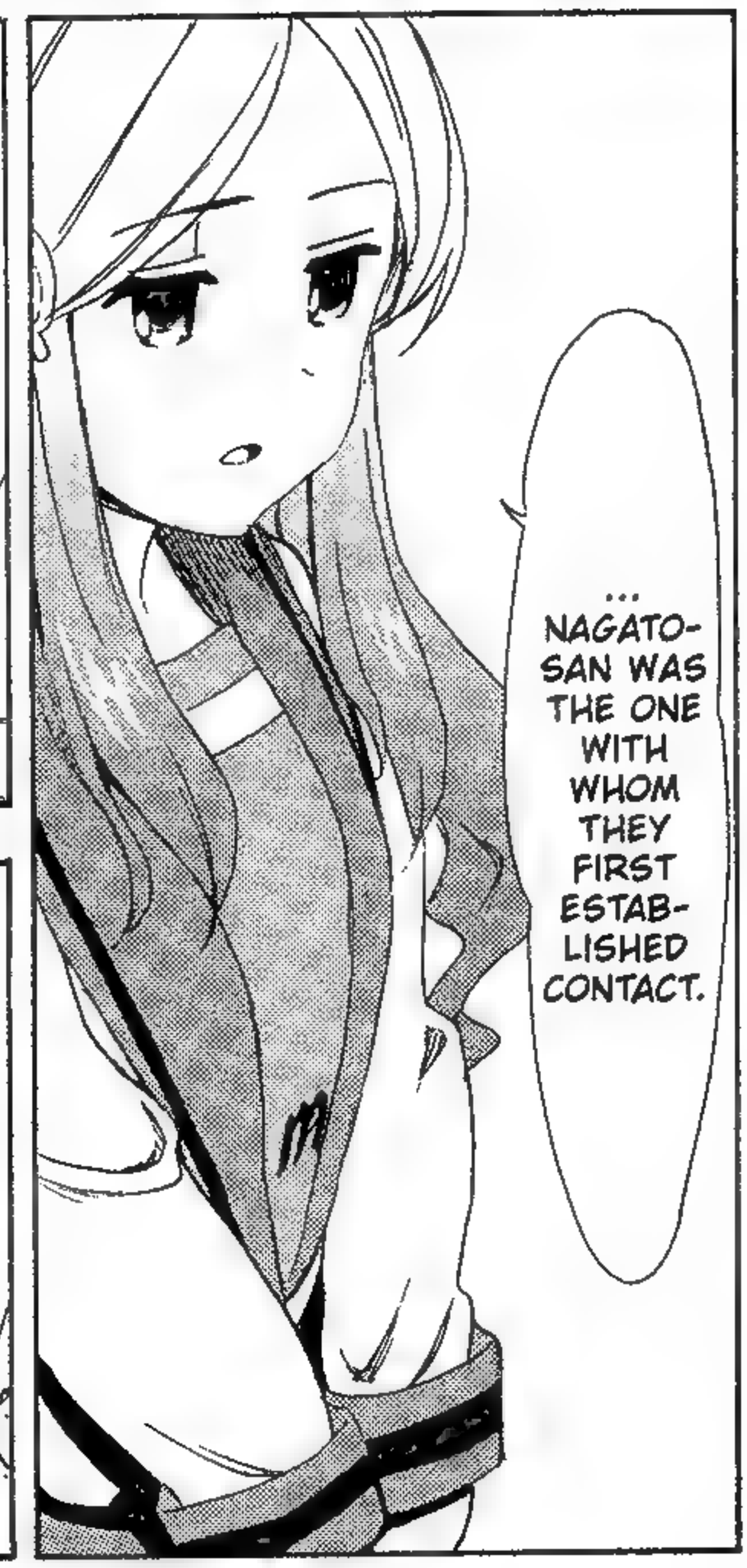

IT IS A HUGE LEAP FORWARD FROM OUR PREVIOUS MUTUAL INCOMPREHENSION.
ALBEIT INDIRECT...


IT IS SUCH A HIGH LEVEL, IN FACT, THAT WORDS ARE INSUFFICIENT.
IT WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY HUMAN.

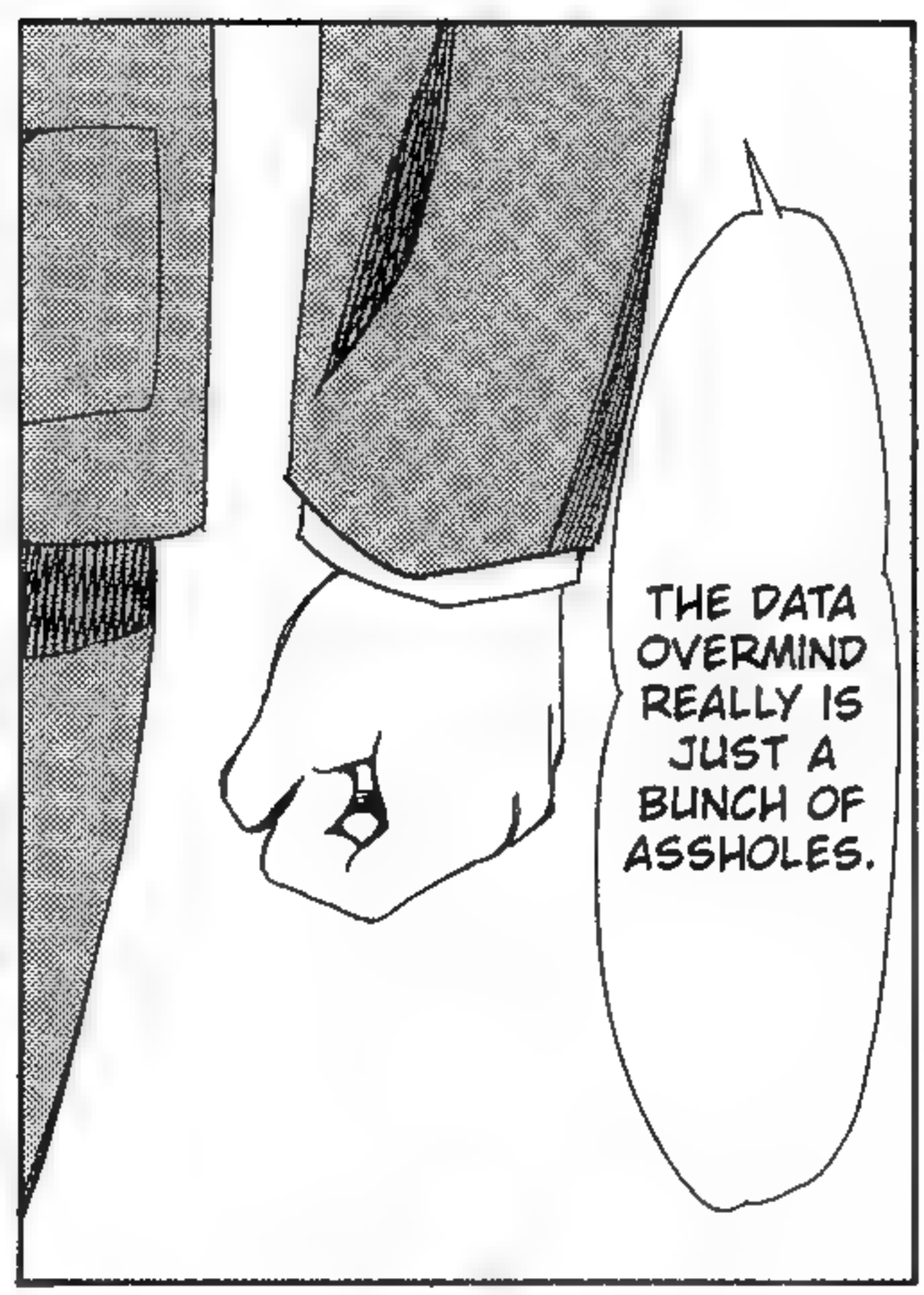
WHY CAN'T YOU OR ASAKURA DO IT?

BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO FORCE ALL OF THIS ON HER ALONE.





...AND THAT SHE WAS THE FIRST ONE WE MET.
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE A MIRACLE THAT NAGATO WAS THE ONE DISPATCHED HERE...


THE DATA OVERMIND REALLY IS JUST A BUNCH OF ASSHOLES.

...NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
...OR IF ASAKURA'S AND NAGATO'S POSITIONS WERE REVERSED ...
IF IT HAD BEEN YOU IN THE LITERATURE CLUB...

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK THAT HARUHI DIDN'T WISH FOR ALIENS—SHE WISHED FOR NAGATO SPECIFICALLY.
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF NAGATO.

BA (WHAP)

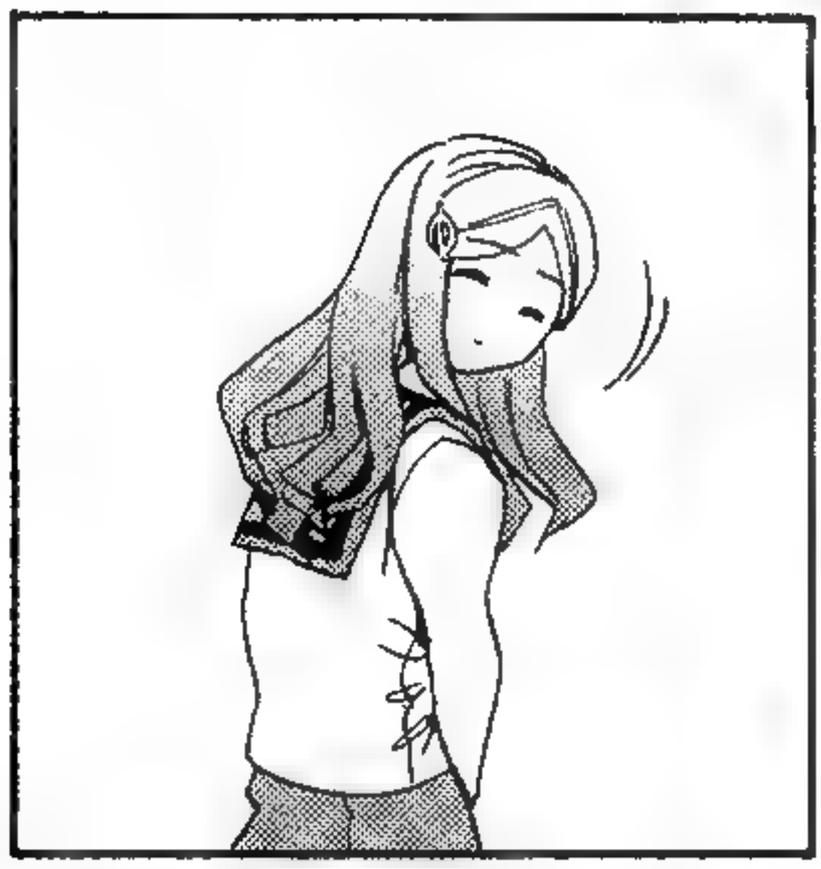
LET THEM WEIGH THEMSELVES AGAINST NAGATO.

THE MAJORITY FACTION, THE RADICAL FACTION, I DON'T CARE—THEY OUGHTTA SHOW THEMSELVES TO HARUHI.

YOU CAN BET HARUHI'LL PICK NAGATO EVERY TIME.

MY DIRECTIVES PREVENT ANY DEVIATION.

THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH I CAN DO.



I COULDN'T TELL WHO SAID IT.

I WASN'T EVEN SURE IF IT WAS KUYOH, ASAKURA, KIMIDORI, OR SOMEONE ELSE.

MY BRAIN DIDN'T JUST CONJURE WORDS OUT OF THE SOUND OF THE WIND BLOWING ACROSS MY EARS.

BUT I KNOW I HEARD A VOICE SPEAK THOSE WORDS.

AN AMUSING JOKE... INDEED...

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA II : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

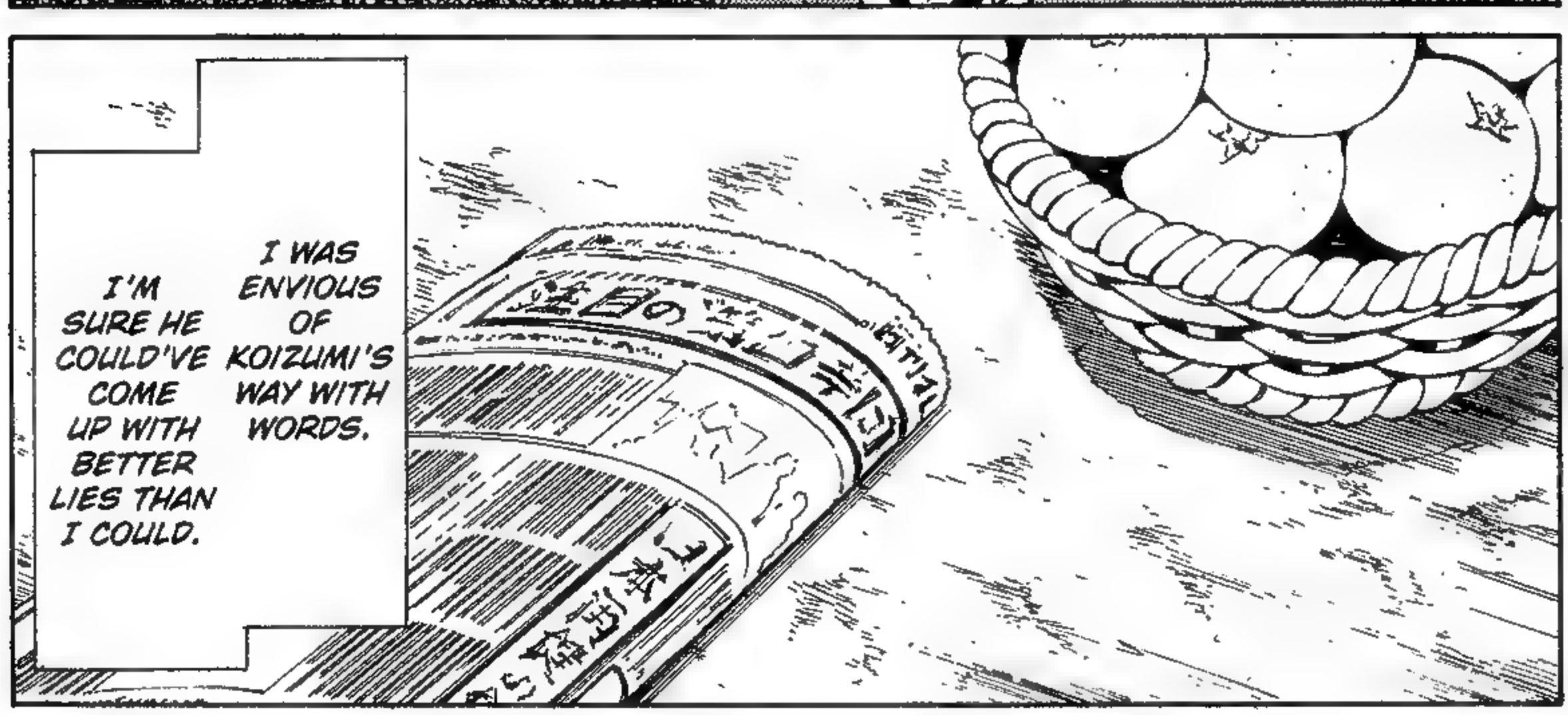
KUYOH, ASAKURA, KIMIDORI-SAN—THEY WERE ALL MONSTERS.
IT HAD GOTTEN SO THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS AN ENEMY AND WHO WAS ON MY SIDE.
β—7
EVEN AMONG HUMANS THERE WERE ECCENTRIC ONES, BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST GUESS WHAT WENT ON IN THEIR HEADS.
IT WAS EVEN WORSE WHEN THEIR STATS WERE TOTALLY GAME-BREAKING.
BUT THERE WAS NO WAY OF TELLING WHAT WENT ON IN THE MINDS OF MONSTERS.

SFX: GOSO (SHUFFLE) GOSO

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BETTER SOON.
THEY SAY YOU GET SICK WHEN THE SEASON CHAN-GES.

THIS IS JUST LIKE THAT.
THE SEASON'S CHANGING AND EVERY-THING.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS REAL.
THAT NON-SENSE ABOUT GROUP HYPNOSIS OR WHAT-EVER WAS A PACK OF LIES FROM KOIZUMI.

SHE'LL PROBABLY RECOVER IN A FEW DAYS.
YEAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE HERSELF.


I'M SURE HE COULD'VE COME UP WITH BETTER LIES THAN I COULD.
I WAS ENVIOUS OF KOIZUMI'S WAY WITH WORDS.

A PLACE JUST AS BOXED-UP AS ONE OF YOUR CLOSED SPACES.

WHERE'D YOU GO?
WELCOME BACK.

ONLY FOR A MOMENT, THOUGH.
LOOKING AT THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE, I'M GUESSING IT WAS NO MERE CHANCE ENCOUNTER.

GOSO (RUSTLE)
THERE WERE REPORTS THAT BOTH SUOH KUYOH AND KIMIDORI-SAN WERE SIGHTED.
SO IT SEEMS.

FROM WHAT I CAN DEDUCE, THE CHANCES ARE SLIM.
THERE IS ESSENTIALLY NO CONNECTION BETWEEN HER FACTION AND NAGATO-SAN'S CURRENT CONDITION.
THEY HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG ALLIES.

I'LL DO WHAT-EVER I CAN.
CAN YOU POKE KYOKO TACHI-BANA?

HE DIDN'T SEEM SCARED OF KUYOH AT ALL.

SO WHAT ABOUT THE TIME TRAVELER? THAT FUJIWARA GUY.

IT'S ABSURD TO THINK THAT HUMANS COULD UNDERSTAND AN ENTITY THAT EVEN THE DATA OVERMIND CANNOT COMPREHEND.

SUOH KUYOH IS NOT SOMEONE WITH WHOM ONE CAN COMMUNICATE.

PUSHU (SQUISH)

THAT'S TRUE OF BOTH TIME TRAVELER FACTIONS, THOUGH.

IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT HIS AIM IS NOT MERELY TO OBSERVE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

EVEN IF SHE SAYS NO, I'M STILL COMING OVER!

I'VE DECIDED. I'M GOING TO KEEP MAKING DINNERS FOR YUKI UNTIL SHE GETS BETTER.

TA (DASH)

タッ

I'M SUSPENDING SOS BRIGADE ACTIVITIES FOR A WHILE.

OKAY!

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU TOMORROW TOO, MIKURU-CHAN.

UNTIL YUKI STARTS COMING TO SCHOOL AGAIN, I'LL BE COMING HERE INSTEAD.

THE ONLY PERSON AMONG MY NEW ACQUAINTANCES WHOSE PHONE NUMBER I KNEW.

THERE WAS SOMEONE I HAD TO CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NO— SOMETHING ONLY I COULD DO.

THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TOO.

I dare-say they've been waiting for you to contact me.

I'm willing to bet they'll come.

I'll call the other three too of course.

To-morrow after-noon after school, right?

I got your mes-sage.

It took me a while to get back to you.

Sorry, Kyon.

Well, see you tomor-row.

Good night, my friend.

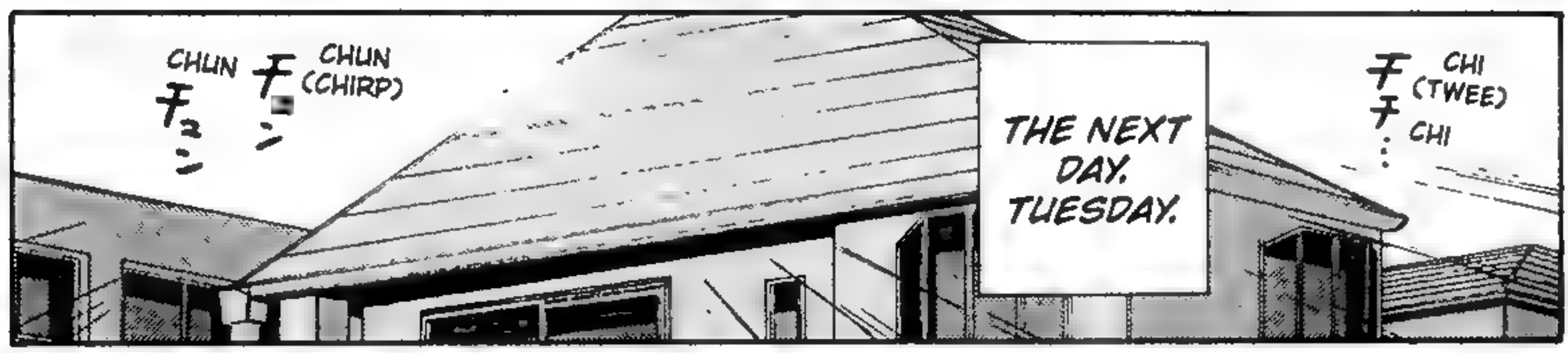
They're probably counting on you being mad, after all.

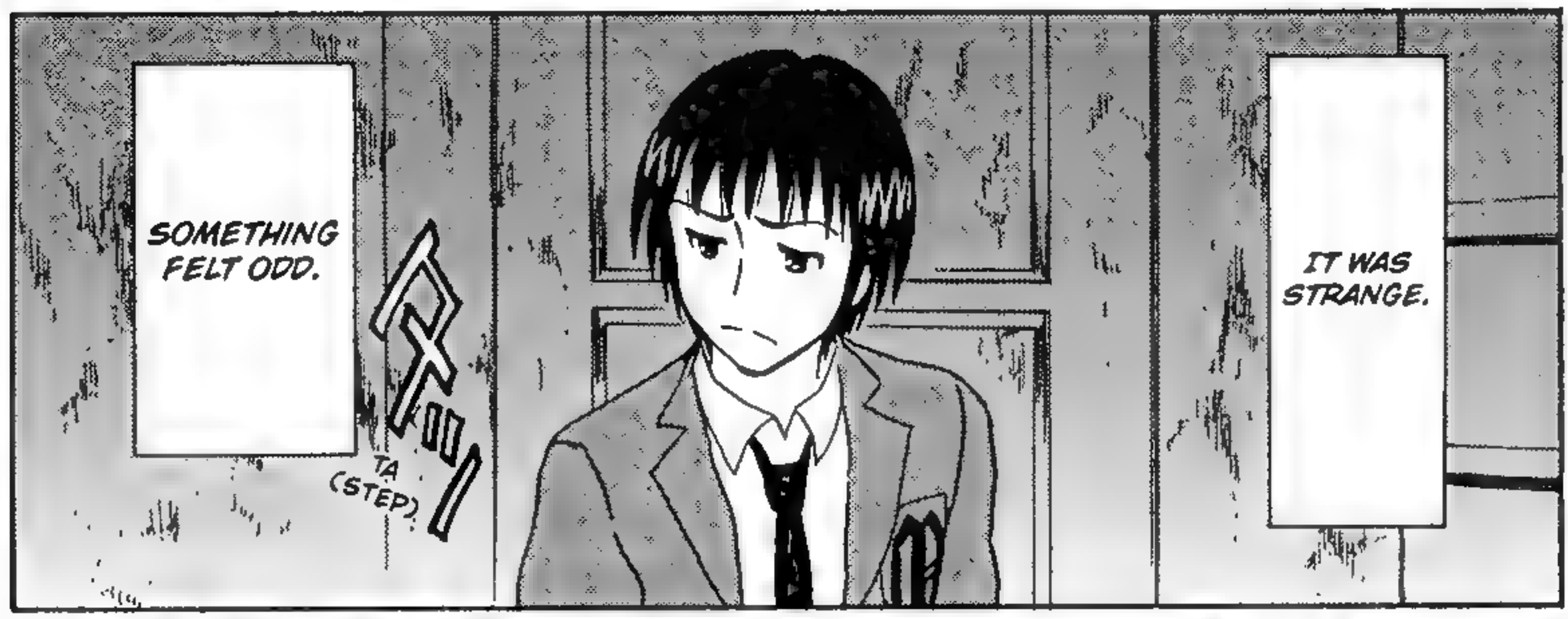
I mean, I have no idea, but.

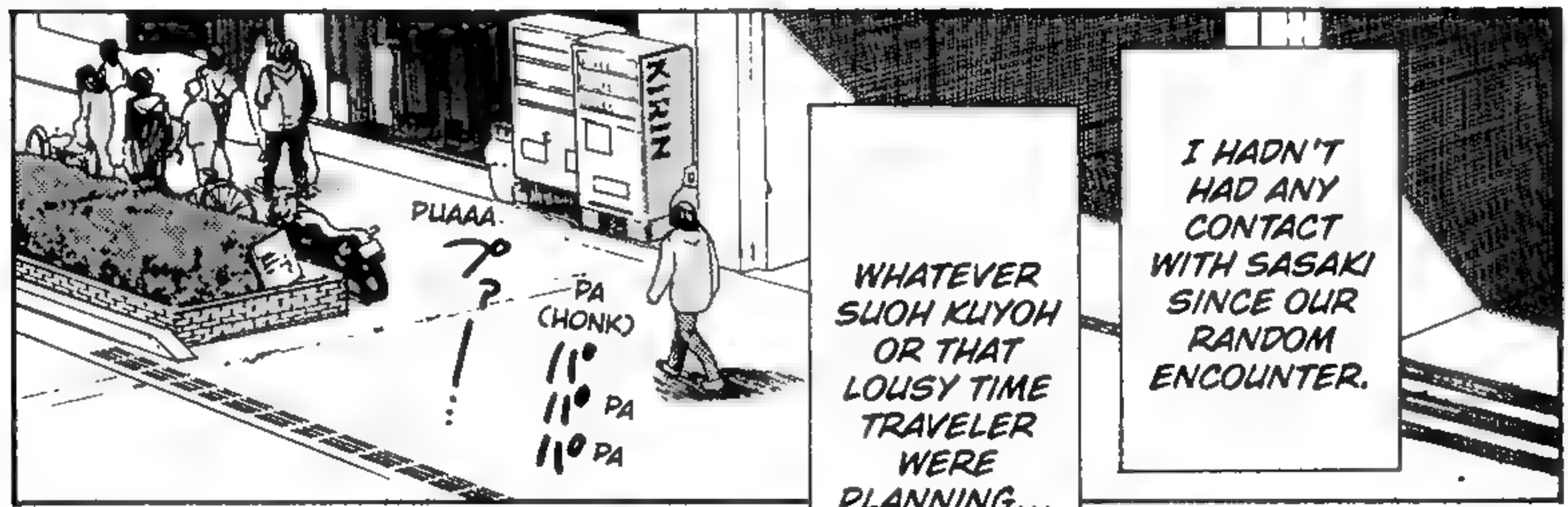
I can tell you're pretty mad about some-thing.

It would probably be best if you calm down a little.

α—8


CHUN
CHUN (CHIRP)
THE NEXT DAY. TUESDAY.
CHI (TWEE)
CHI


SOMETHING FELT ODD.
TA (STEP)
IT WAS STRANGE.


KIRIN
PUAAA.
PA (HONK)
PA
PA
WHATEVER SUOH KUYOH OR THAT LOUSY TIME TRAVELER WERE PLANNING...
I HADN'T HAD ANY CONTACT WITH SASAKI SINCE OUR RANDOM ENCOUNTER.

FIRST I HAD TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE BRIGADE CHIEF.
...THINKING ABOUT IT WASN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE.
CHUN
CHUN
...HM.

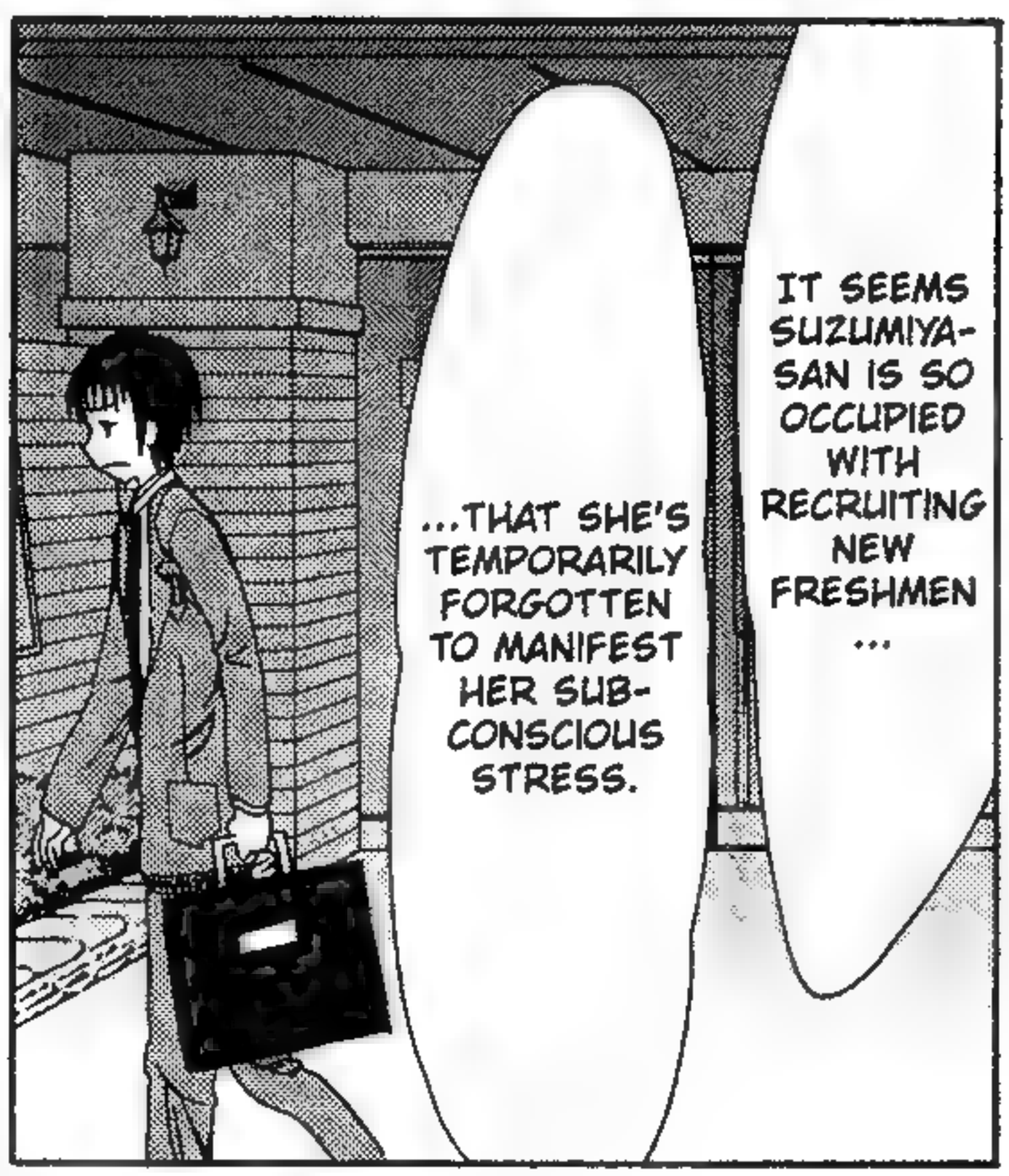
I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS.
ANYWAY, HOW ARE YOU?

HEY.
YOU SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAS SOME-THING ON HIS MIND.

GOOD MORN-ING.

WHICH COMES AS QUITE A RELIEF TO ME.
CLOSED SPACE INCIDENTS WERE ONCE FREQUENT, BUT THEY'VE SUDDENLY STOPPED.
YES, ABOUT THAT.

YOU REALLY ARE A SIMPLE GIRL.
GEEZ, HARUHI.

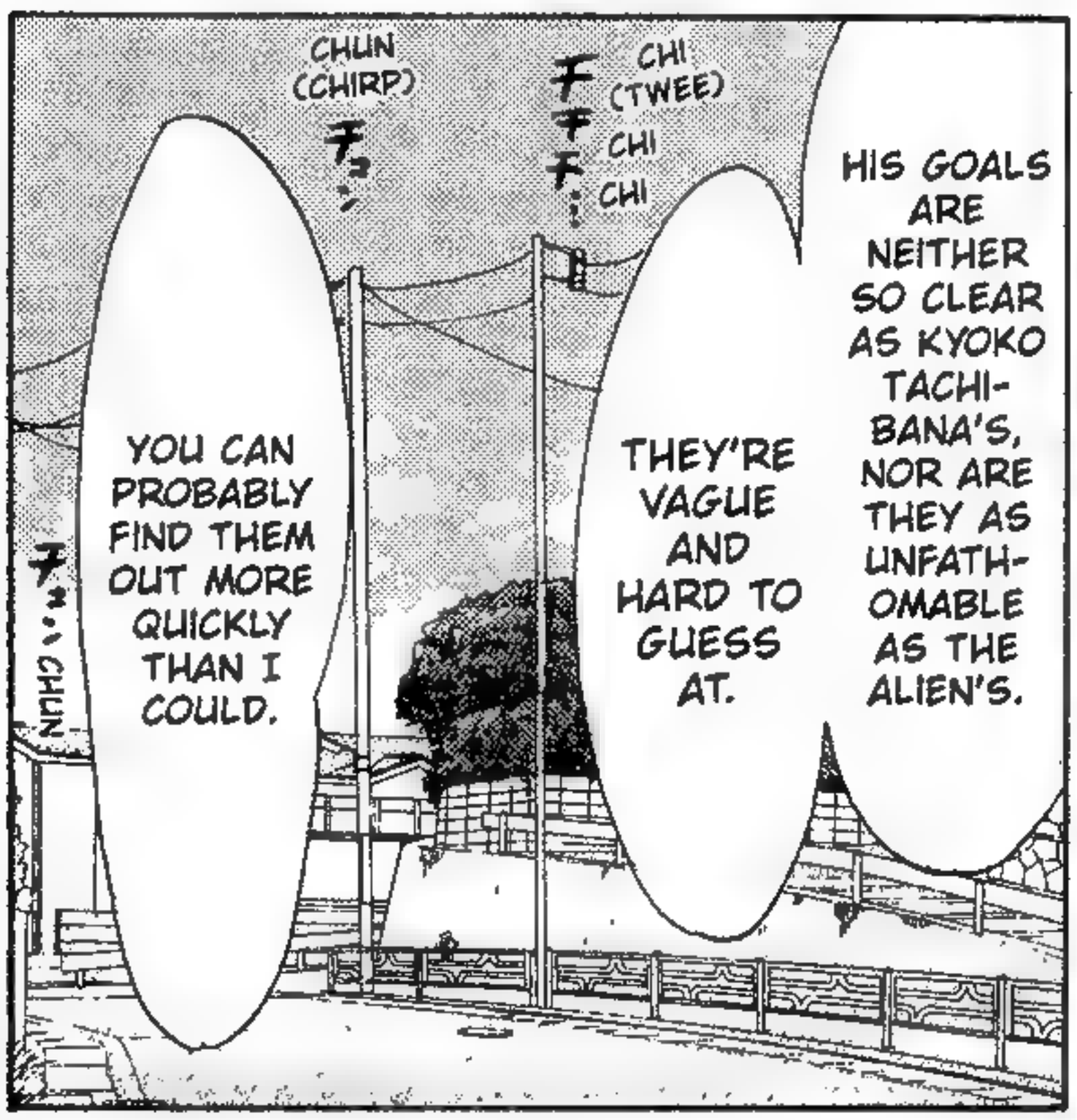

...THAT SHE'S TEMPORARILY FORGOTTEN TO MANIFEST HER SUB-CONSCIOUS STRESS.
IT SEEMS SUZUMIYA-SAN IS SO OCCUPIED WITH RECRUITING NEW FRESHMEN ...

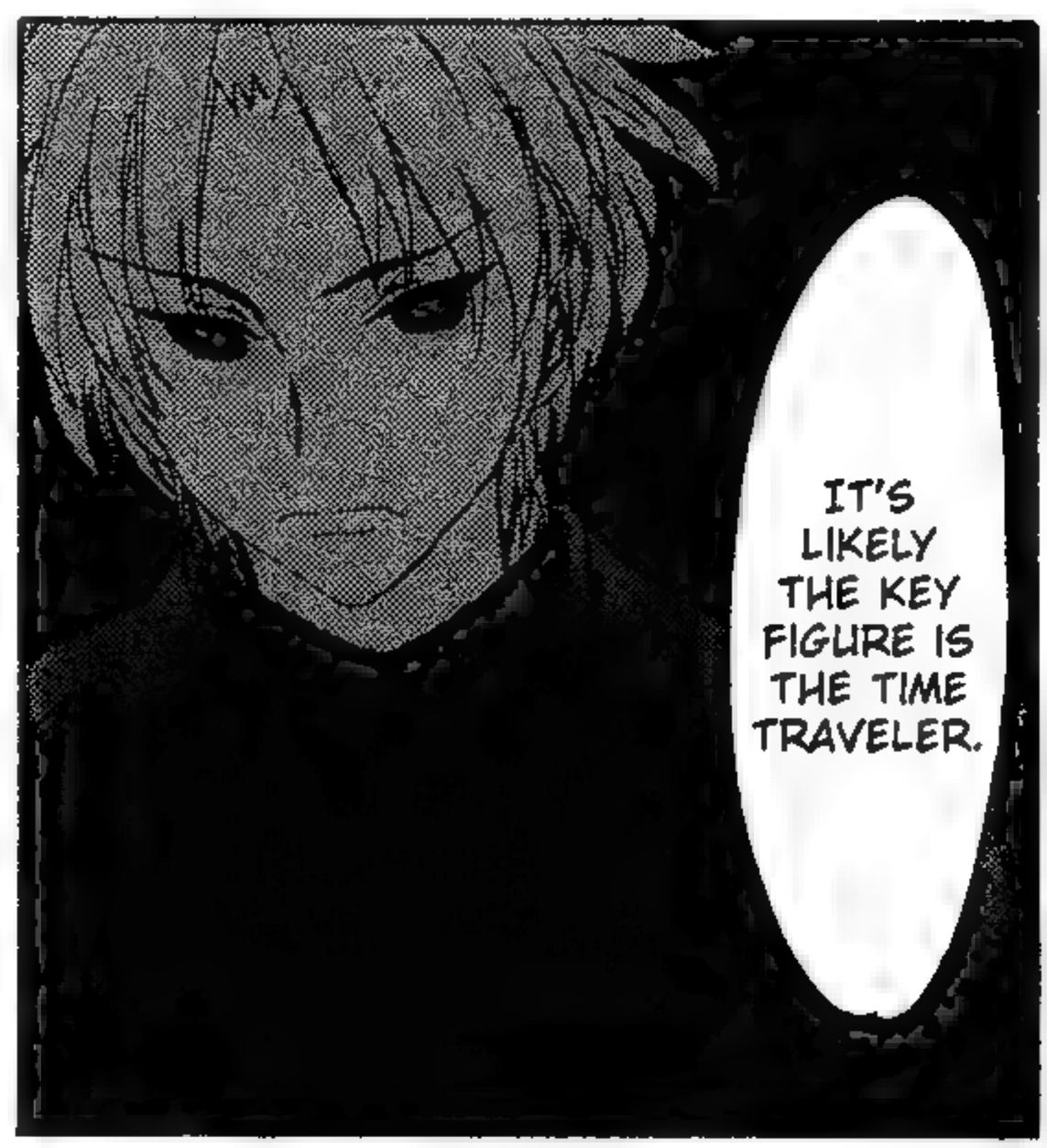
THEY'RE JUST GONNA TURN INTO HARUHI'S TOYS.
I FEEL BAD FOR THE FRESHMEN.

KO (CLICK)
SHE MAY SEEM SIMPLE, BUT SHE'S QUITE COMPLEX.
STILL, I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE WOULD BE SO MANY APPLICANTS TO JOIN THE BRIGADE.
KO

WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM HAVING A FUNCTIONAL COALITION SO FAR.
I'M NOT SURE YET.
KO

KUYOH, KYOKO TACHIBANA, THAT TIME TRAVELER GUY...
ANYWAY, IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO JUST LEAVE THE BAD GUYS ALONE?


CHUN (CHIRP)
CHI (TWEE)
CHI
CHI
YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND THEM OUT MORE QUICKLY THAN I COULD.
THEY'RE VAGUE AND HARD TO GUESS AT.
HIS GOALS ARE NEITHER SO CLEAR AS KYOKO TACHI-BANA'S, NOR ARE THEY AS UNFATH-OMABLE AS THE ALIEN'S.
CHUN


IT'S LIKELY THE KEY FIGURE IS THE TIME TRAVELER.

I HAD THE FEELING THAT SHE WOULD DEFINITELY COME BACK.

SHE WAS THE ONE THAT WORRIED ME.

THE QUESTION WAS, HOW MANY BRIGADE HOPEFULS WOULD REMAIN?

...HARUHI WASN'T LOOKING FOR OUTWARD FLASHINESS THIS TIME.

KON

KON

KON

KON (TAP)

KON

KON

SHE DIDN'T LOOK THAT STRANGE, BUT...

BUT PROBABLY NOT.

MAYBE THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO COULD SHARE THE MENIAL LABOR I DID.

SHE'S REALLY FIDGETY, ISN'T SHE...

KON

KON

KON

SHE WANTED STUDENTS WHOSE INNATE QUALITIES SHONE THROUGH.

YOU BET I WAS.

I NAILED THAT MATH TEST.

YOU WERE TOTALLY RIGHT ABOUT WHAT WAS GONNA BE ON IT.

キーンコーン

KIIN (DING)

KOON (DONG)

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU.

I DECIDED TO DO WORLD HISTORY, SO YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME.

PI (JAB)

SO WHAT ARE YOU CHOOSING FOR YOUR HUMANITIES ELECTIVE?

MAN, YOU'RE FULL OF YOURSELF.

I FIGURE WE'LL SHOW UP ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATE.

THE HEADLINER IS ALWAYS LAST, AFTER ALL.

ANYWAY, AREN'T THE NEW RECRUITS GOING TO BE IN THE CLUB ROOM SOON?

"TREATY OF WESTPHALIA" SOUNDS WAY BETTER THAN "LAWS FOR THE MILITARY HOUSES."

YOU LEARN WAY BETTER VOCABULARY THERE.

YOU'RE GONNA GET YELLED AT.

I GUESS ...

YEAH, I KNOW. I KNOW.

ALTHOUGH MAKING THE BRIGADE CHIEF WAIT DEFINITELY DESERVES PUNISHMENT.

THAT MEANS YOU!

GEEZ!

HAVING TO WAIT IS PART OF THE TEST.

EEEEEEE

YOU'RE A BRIGADE MEMBER, SO I'LL EVEN WAIVE MY TUTORING FEE.

HEY, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.

WHILE WE'RE KILLING TIME, I'LL HELP YOU REVIEW WORLD HISTORY.

HE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO INVENT A TIME MACHINE.

THERE WAS THAT LITTLE PRO-FESSOR SHE WAS TUTORING AND ALL.

SHE HAD TO BE GOOD.

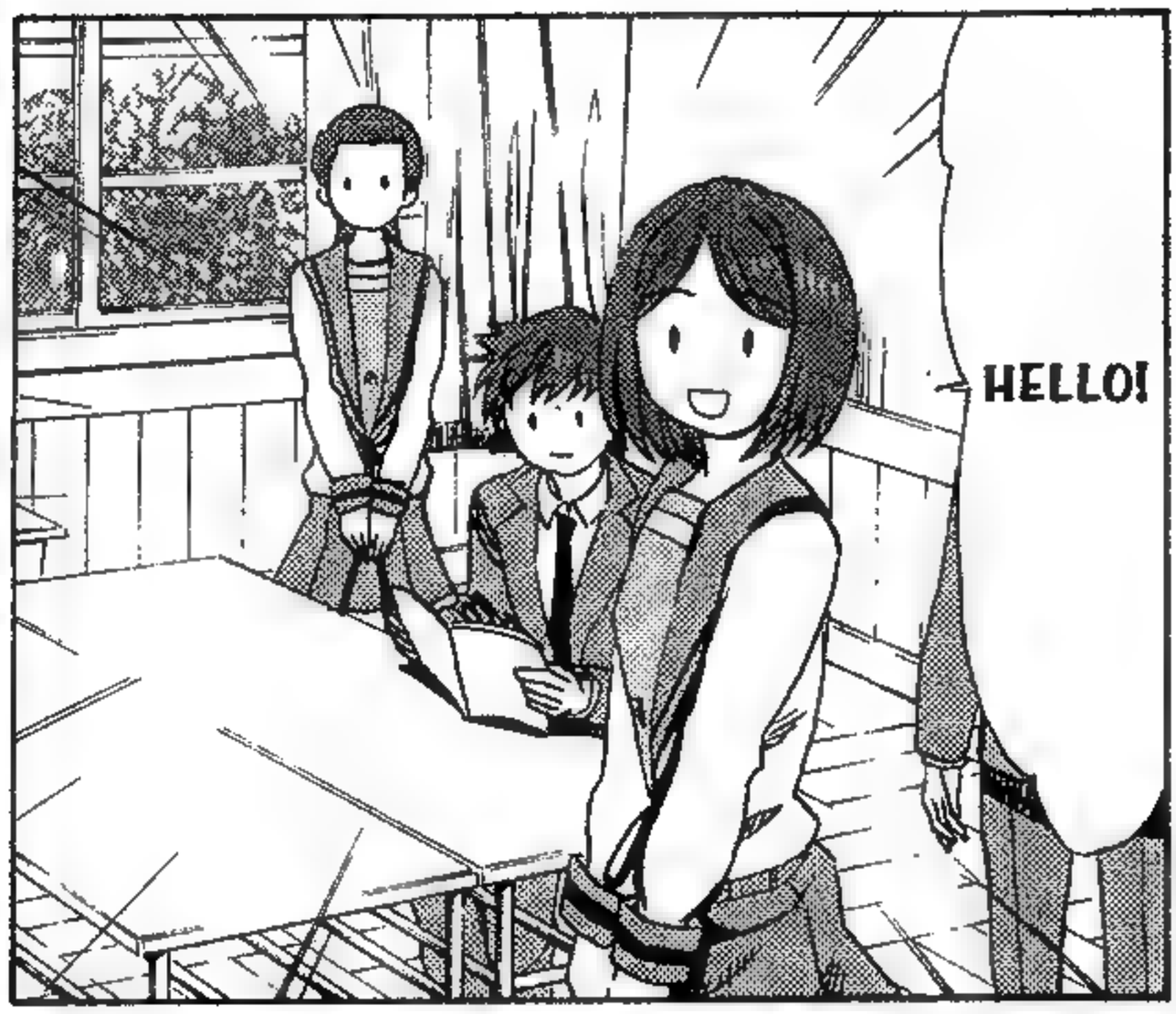
YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT, YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER.

I ADMIT IT.

...SHE WAS VERY MOTIVATED. I WAS GRATEFUL.

WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS HER PRIDE AS BRIGADE CHIEF AND CONCERN FOR HER SUBORDINATES...

SHE WAS SPOT ON.
THREE BOYS, THREE GIRLS ...


HELLO!

THIS YEAR'S FRESHMEN ARE PROMISING INDEED!
GOSO (RUSTLE)
ゴソ!!
I WAS SURE ONLY ONE IN TEN WOULD COME BACK, BUT...
LISTEN UP!
THERE WERE SERIOUSLY THAT MANY LEFT? THIS WAS GOING TO BE COMPLICATED.

IT'S A WRITTEN TEST!
PAN (POW)
I NOW PROCLAIM THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMI-NATION OPEN!

IT'S MORE OF A PERSONALITY TEST OR SURVEY.
KO
KO
KO (CLICK)
DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS.

IT WON'T BE SHARED WITH ANYBODY ELSE, NOT EVEN BRIGADE MEMBERS.
I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION.

I DON'T LIKE HOW THEY SEEM TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH THAT...
HEH HEH!
IT WILL BE USED FOR REFERENCE, THOUGH.
IT WON'T DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUR ACCEPTANCE.

MAN, YOU'RE BOSSY.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SHORT ON CHAIRS. GO GET SOME.
TA (DASH)
TA
SO KYON, KOIZUMI-KUN, AND MIKURU-CHAN, YOU SHOULD ALL LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A BIT.
OH, YUKI CAN STAY.

CHAIRS, HUH?
MAYBE I CAN GET 'EM FROM THE COMPUTER CLUB...

OH, SURE.
KURU (FWIP)
I'LL PUT SOME TEA ON.

I ALMOST WASTED A BUNCH OF TIME.
GEEZ, MAN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE WE GOT KICKED OUT?

ZORO (ORDERED)
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CHAIRS, I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED SOME.

I'M RATHER INTERESTED TO KNOW.

CHA (CHAK)
JUST WHAT DID YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN USE THAT TIME FOR?
I DON'T THINK IT'S NECES-SARILY A WASTE.
WE WAITED FOR A FULL HALF HOUR BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP.

PAN (CLAP)
ぱん
ぱん PAN
SHE JUST WANTED TO BE FASHIONABLY LATE.
SHE WAS PURPOSEFULLY WAITING FOR THE FRESHMEN TO ARRIVE.

キイ KII (CREAK)
NOTHING HAPPENED.
THERE'S NO POINT IN MAKING IT SOUND SO SUSPICIOUS.

IT'S AS THOUGH SHE'S POURING OUT HER HEART JUST TO BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR YOU.
HEH HEH...
I WONDER.
SHE'S NEVER LATE FOR OUR TRAIN STATION RENDEZVOUS.

I WONDER.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY?
WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU, SHE WON'T JUST MAKE YOU PAY FOR EVERYTHING.

THAT'S JUST HER BEING STUBBORN. AND MAKING ME TREAT EVERYBODY.

I DON'T RECALL SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT A DATE.
BUT THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE.

HEY.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME TO ASK HARUHI OUT ON A DATE.

LOOKING AT ME LIKE A MOTHER HEN LIKE THAT.
HE REALLY PISSED ME OFF.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IMPLYING SOMETHING.
KYON!
COULDN'T YOU FIND ANY CHAIRS?

...IF THAT'S YOUR WISH.
IF THAT EVER HAP-PENS, I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
YOU BETTER DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SNAP ME OUT OF IT.

LET'S SEE, HERE...

SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAM

Grade Class Name

1. Explain the reasoning behind your ambition to join the SOS Brigade.

2. If you are admitted, in what way can you contribute?

3. Of aliens, time travelers, sliders, and espers, which do you think is best?

4. Why?

5. Explain any mysterious phenomena you have experienced.

6. What's your favorite pithy phrase?

7. If you could do anything, what would you do?

8. Final question: Express your enthusiasm.

PS: If you can bring along anything really interesting, you get extra credit. Please try to find something.

BEGIN!

BA (WHAP)

USE THE BACK IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE!

YOU'VE GOT THIRTY MIN-UTES!

NO LIMIT ON ANSWER LENGTH!

BI (FLICK)

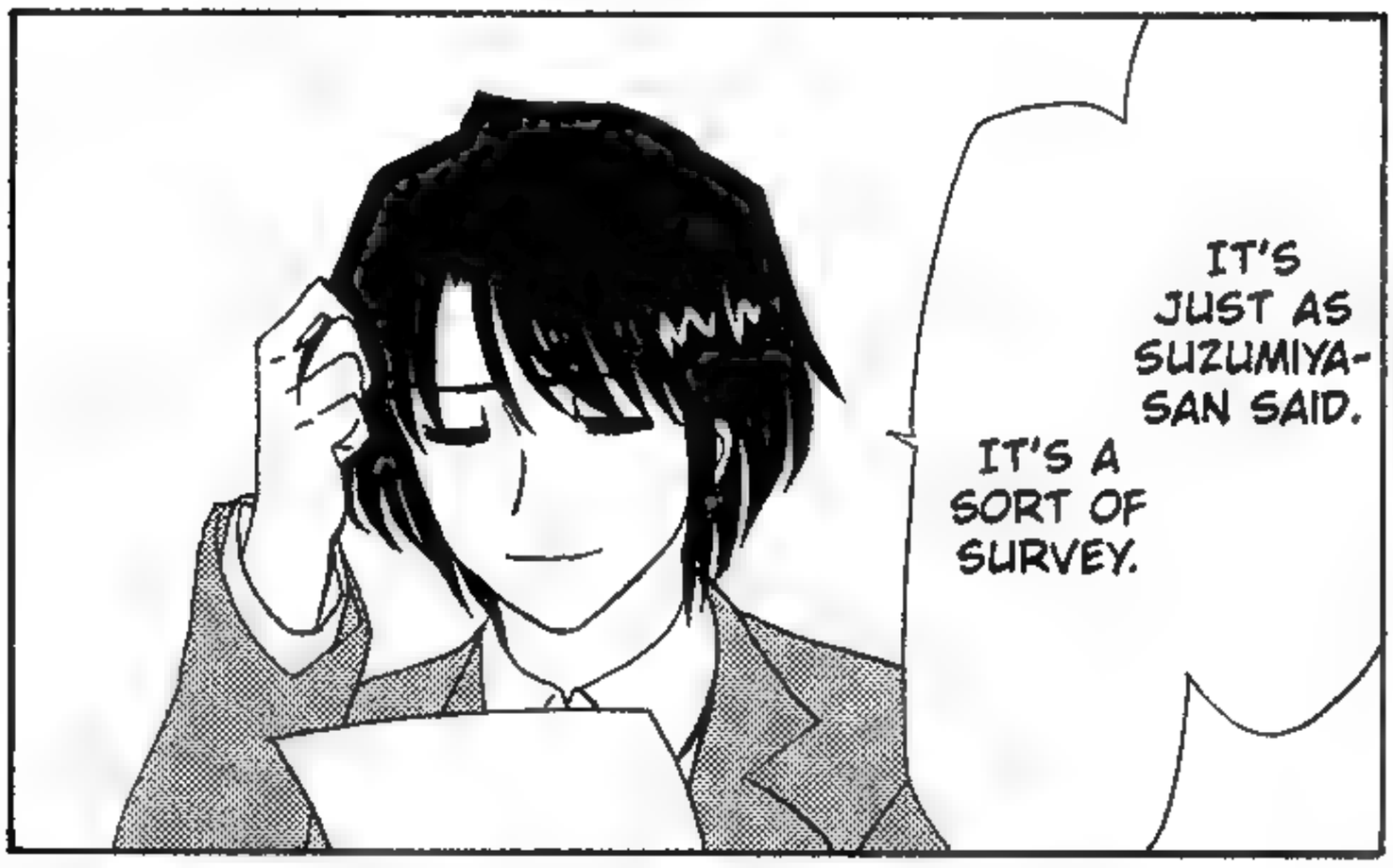
BAN (BAM)

KEEP OUT!

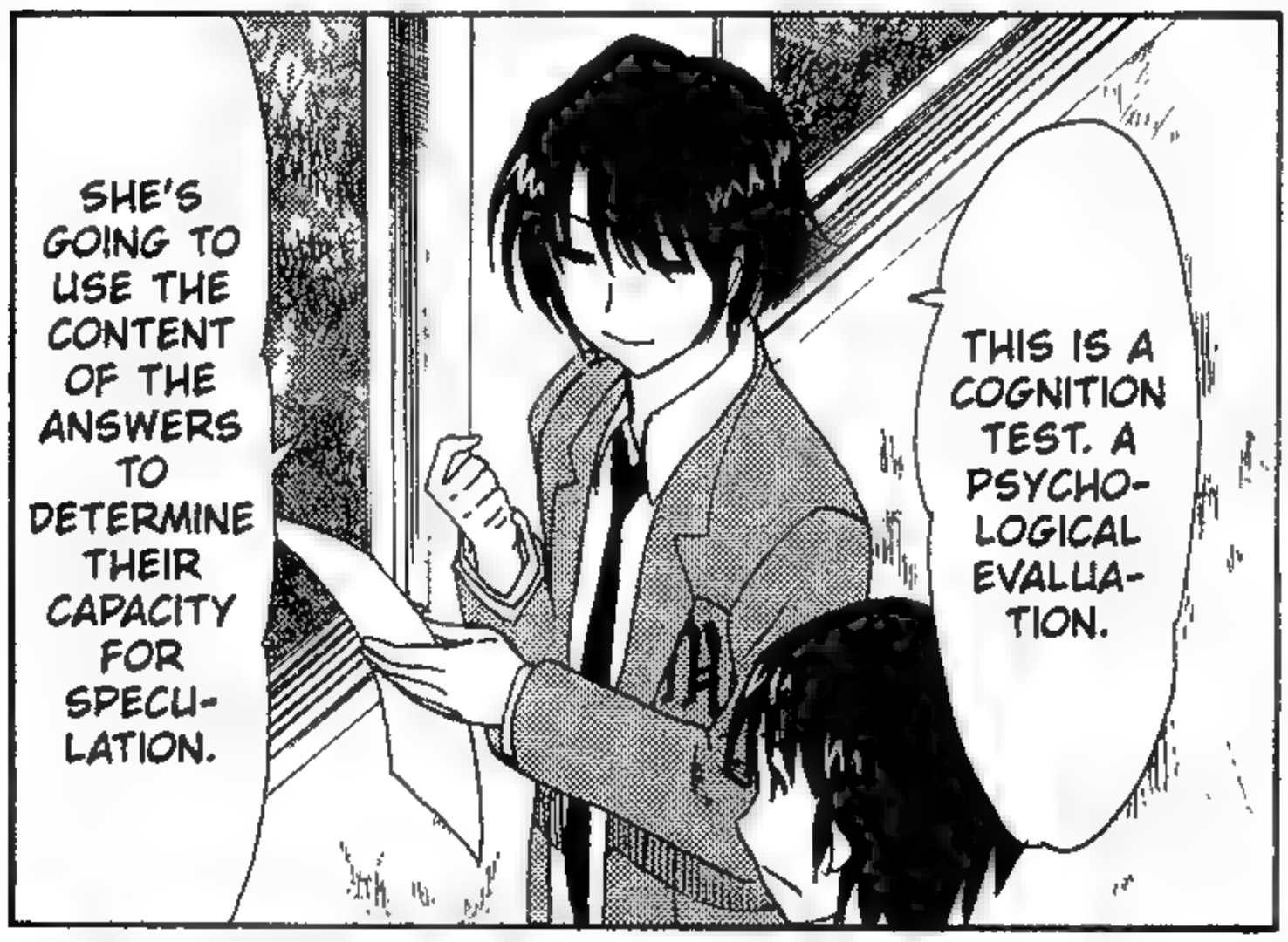
GO, HURRY, OUT!

OH, AND STICK THIS ON THE DOOR.

KEEP OUT!!

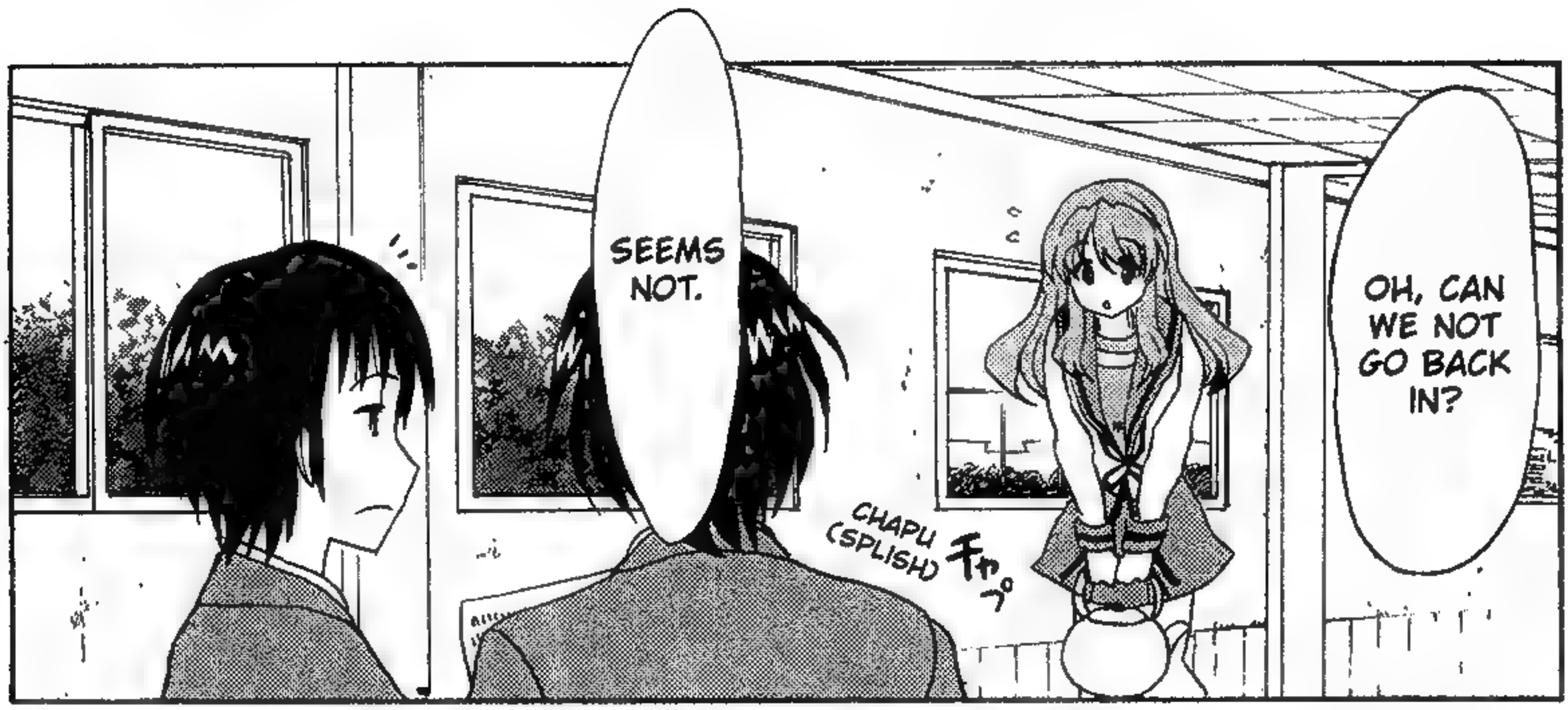

IT'S JUST AS SUZUMIYA-SAN SAID.
IT'S A SORT OF SURVEY.

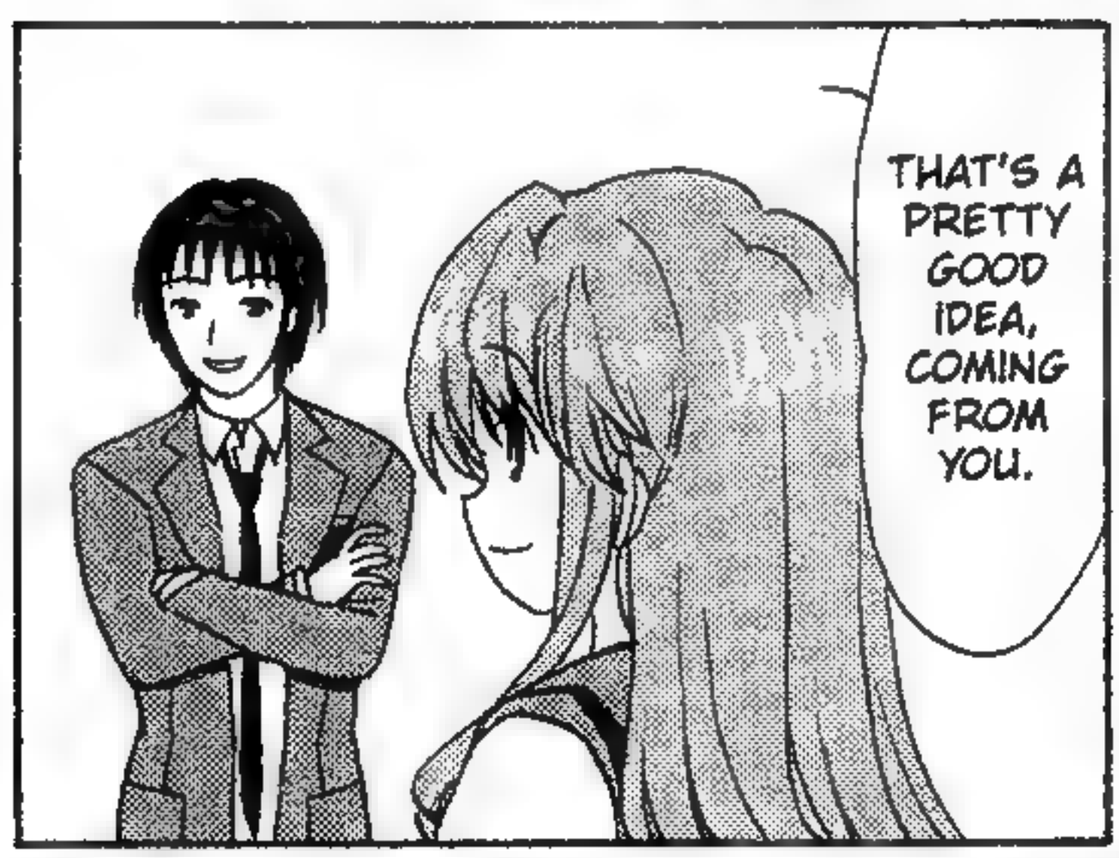
WHAT KIND OF EXAM QUESTIONS ARE THESE ANYWAY?


SHE'S GOING TO USE THE CONTENT OF THE ANSWERS TO DETERMINE THEIR CAPACITY FOR SPECULATION.
THIS IS A COGNITION TEST. A PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

Of aliens, time travelers, sliders, and espers, which do you think is best?
I'M RATHER INTERESTED IN QUESTION THREE.
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
S.O.S. BRIGADE ENTRANC
HEY.

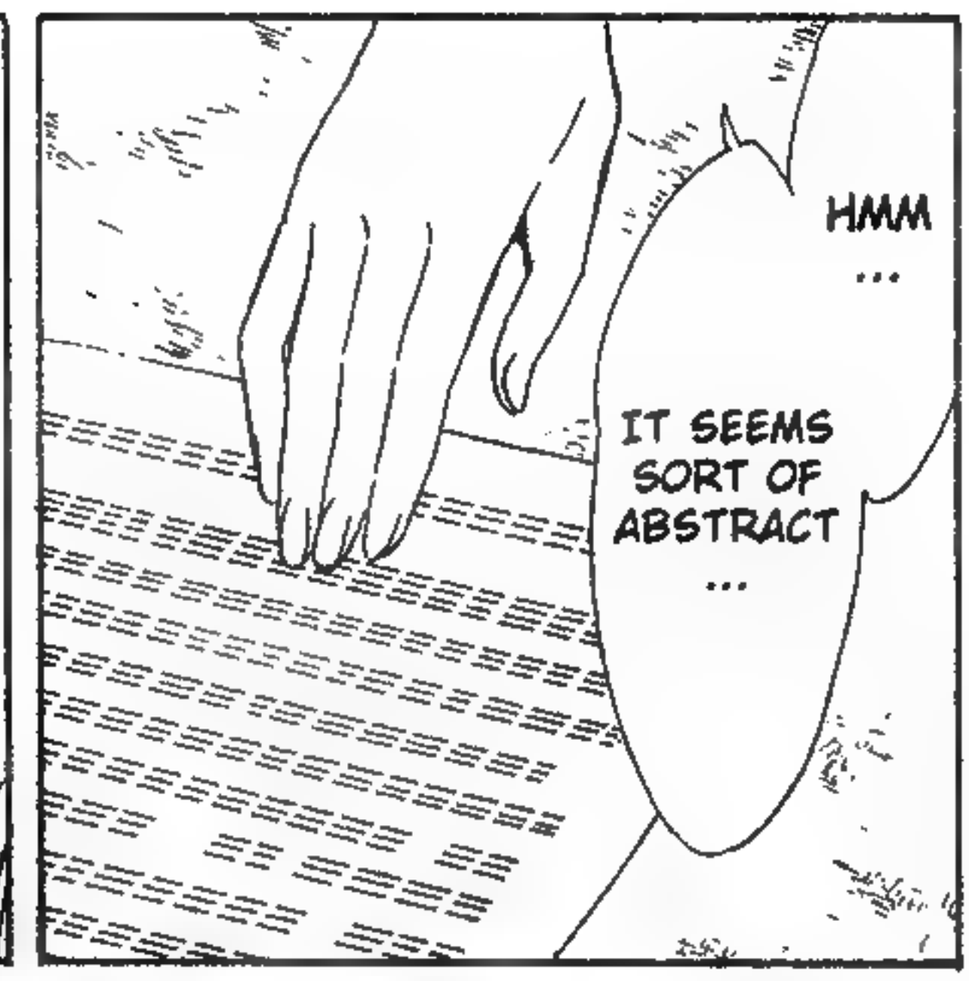
I WONDER. I THINK SHE'S GOING TO USE IT AS A SERIOUS TEST.
STILL... HOW'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THESE?

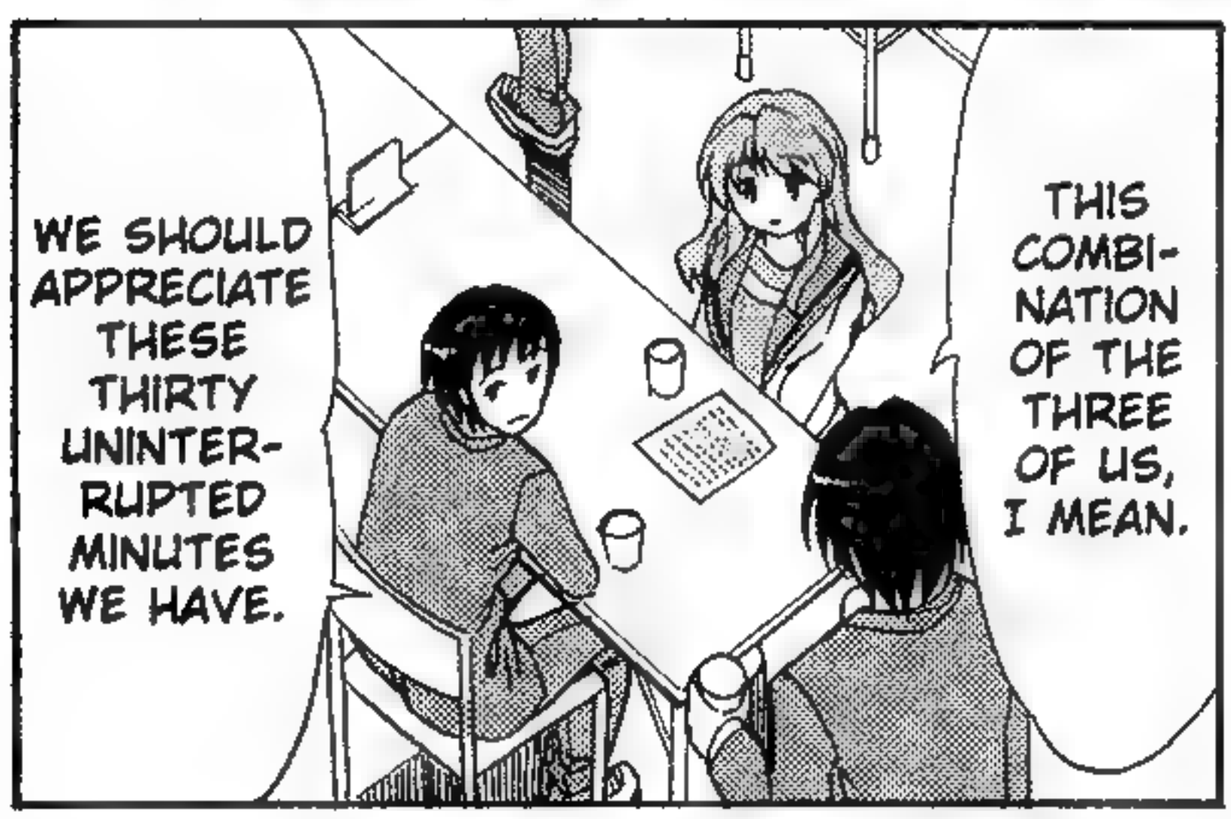




SIGNS: STUDENT CAFETERIA, DESSERT, SET MEAL A, RAMEN, UDON/SOBA

I WOULDN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME OVER-THINKING IT.


HMM ...
IT SEEMS SORT OF ABSTRACT ...


WE SHOULD APPRECIATE THESE THIRTY UNINTER-RUPTED MINUTES WE HAVE.
THIS COMBI-NATION OF THE THREE OF US, I MEAN.

STILL, THIS IS A RARE EVENT.

ONE THAT'S GOOD FOR LOTS OF PLAYERS, TO LIVEN THINGS UP, MAYBE.
SO THERE WAS A BOARD GAME I WAS THINKING ABOUT BUYING...

I GUESS.
WE SHOULD!

AND MAYBE A SIMPLE ONE WOULD BE NICE...
おまかせ
OH, WHAT A GOOD IDEA!

JUST BEING ABLE TO HAVE SOME NORMAL, MEANINGLESS SMALL TALK.

IT WAS A PRETTY RARE EVENT.

IF ONLY FOR HALF AN HOUR.

ALL THE MORE PRECIOUS FOR ITS ORDINARINESS.

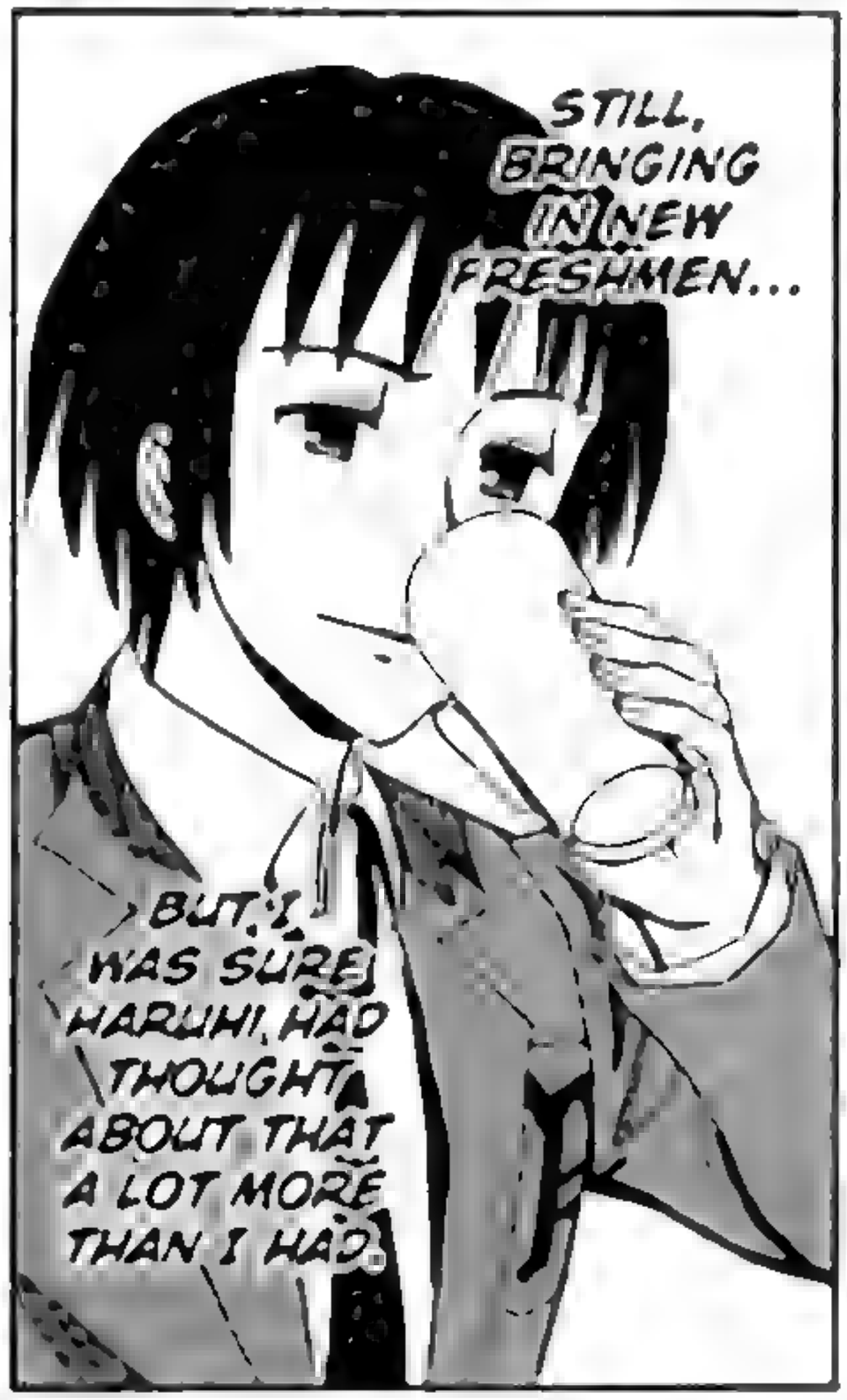
I COULDN'T IMAGINE THE SOS BRIGADE GETTING ANOTHER MEMBER.

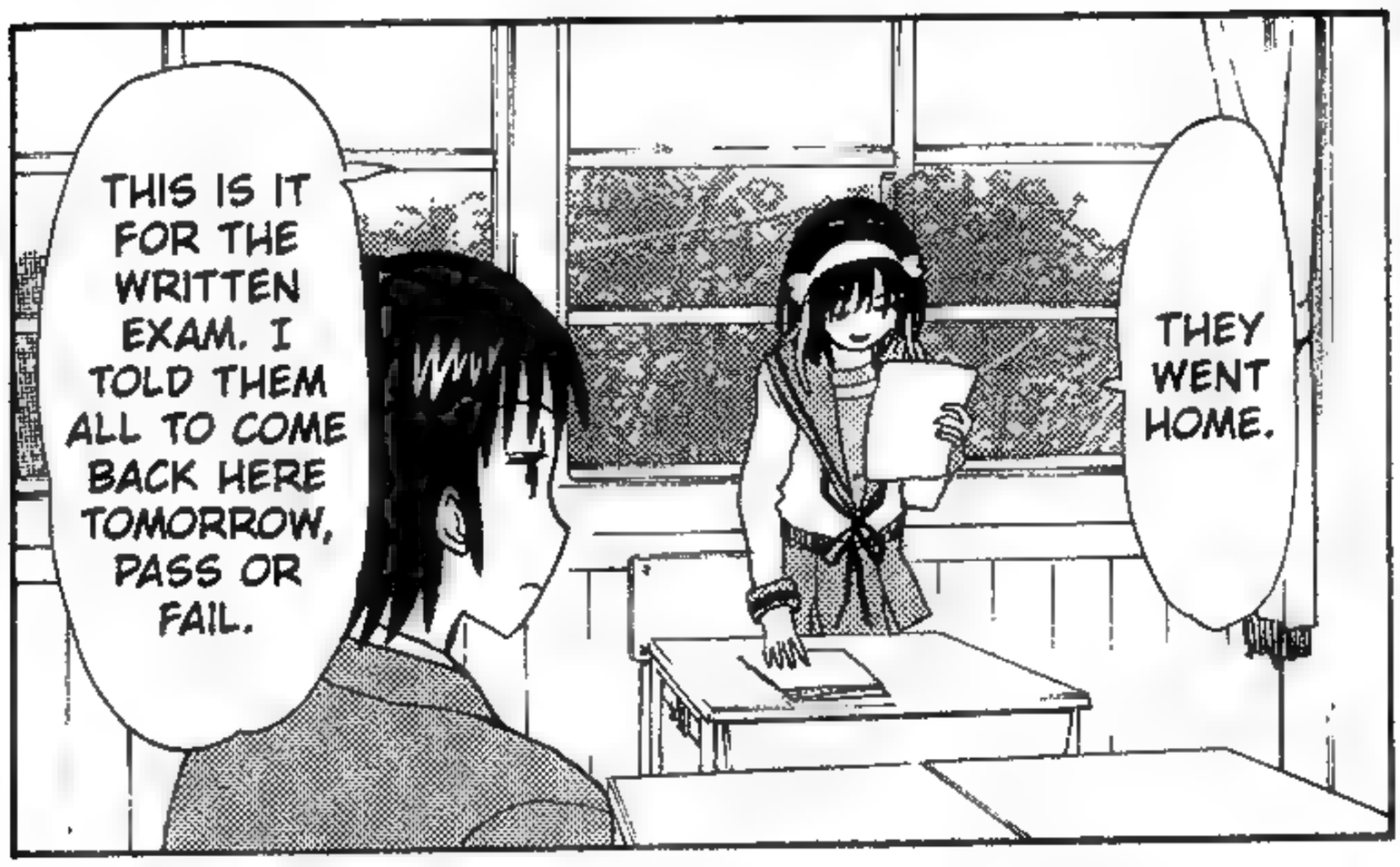
IT WAS TIMES LIKE THIS I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

THERE WERE THINGS IN THE WORLD THAT NEVER CHANGED.

WHO WAS IT WHO HAD SAID CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT?

I FELT LIKE I WANTED TO ARGUE THE POINT WITH THEM.




THIS IS IT FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM. I TOLD THEM ALL TO COME BACK HERE TOMORROW, PASS OR FAIL.
THEY WENT HOME.

KO (CLICK).
HEY, WHERE ARE THE FRESH-MEN?
KO

BUT IF THEY CAME UP WITH INTERESTING THINGS TO SAY, I'LL TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT.
PERA
PERA (FLIP)
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING A HASTY DECISION JUST BASED ON THIS TEST.

THE UN-MOTIVATED ONES JUST WON'T COME BACK TOMORROW.
TON (TAP) TON
TAKING THE TEST IS ITSELF PART OF THE TEST.
I'M TESTING THEIR ENDU-RANCE.

THAT'S NOT FAIR TO THEM.
SO THIS IS JUST FOR FUN?
DON'T BE STUPID. OBVIOUSLY I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
(CREAK)

I'LL PASS.
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWERS, I'LL CONSIDER GIVING YOU A PROMOTION.
TEE HEE!
A BRIGADE CHIEF INTERVIEW.
HEY, YOU WANT TO TRY ONE NOW?
TON

PUI (FWIP)
NO WAY.
C'MON.
I WANT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF THINGS THOSE LITTLE FRESHMEN CAME UP WITH.
HARUHI, LEMME SEE THEIR ANSWERS.

I WON'T DENY THAT I'M CURIOUS, BUT...
... HM.

ESPECIALLY NOT JUST TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY!
I HAVE TO RESPECT THEIR PRIVACY.
I CAN'T JUST GO SHOWING THEIR ANSWERS AROUND.

HAD THAT GIRL COME TODAY?

STRANGE... I DON'T REMEMBER.

WERE ALL SIX OF TODAY'S FRESHMEN IN YES-TERDAY'S GROUP?

ONE OF THEM MIGHT HAVE COME FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY... NO.

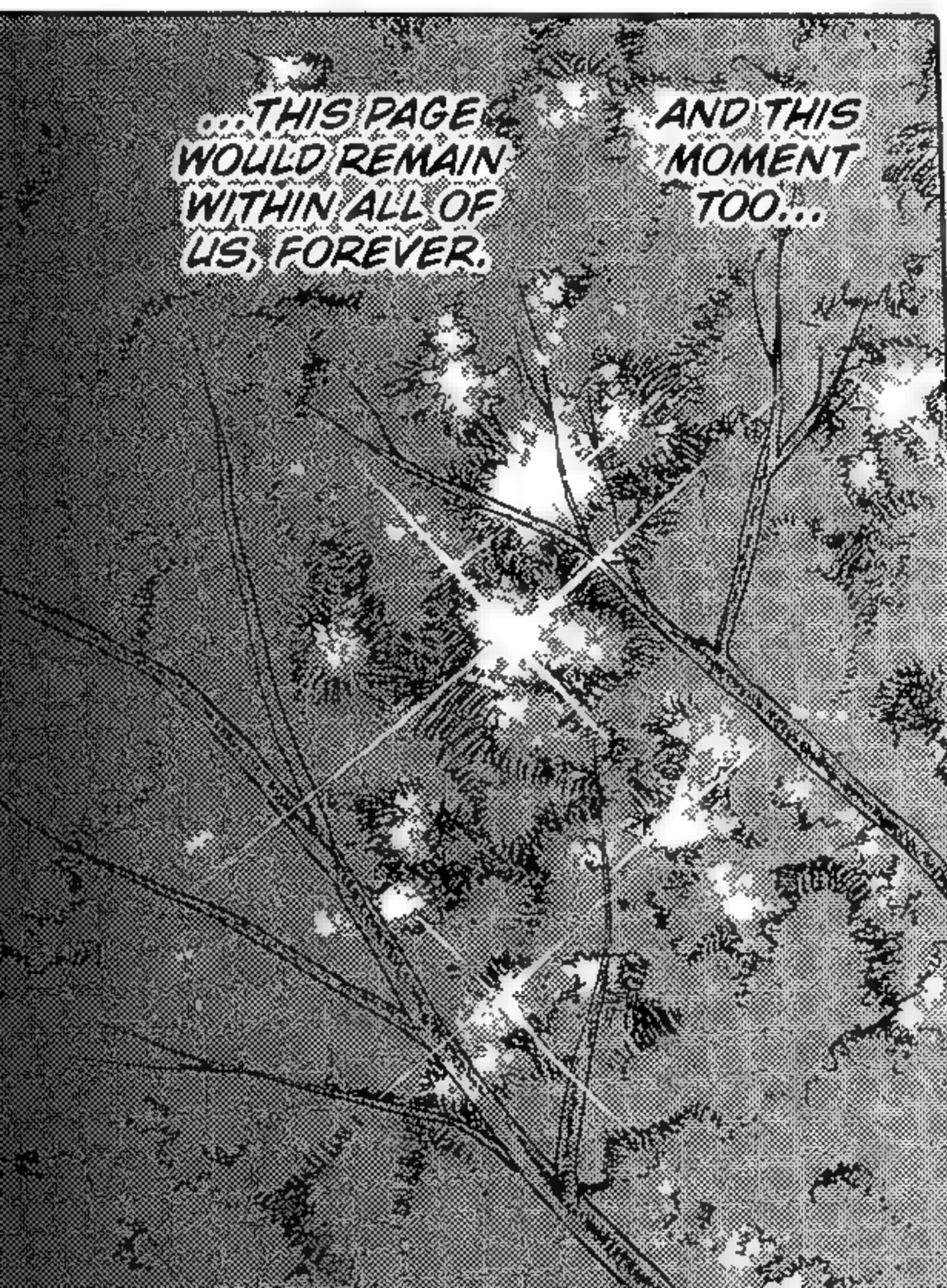
LIKE I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS ...

WEIRD.

SOMETHING IS WEIGHING ON MY MIND.

"NOTHING?" IS THAT WHAT SHE MEANS?

SO LONG AS NAGATO WAS IN THE CLUB ROOM ABSORBED IN A BOOK, THE WORLD WAS SAFE.
THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO PUT ME AT EASE.


...THIS PAGE WOULD REMAIN WITHIN ALL OF US, FOREVER.
AND THIS MOMENT TOO...

I'D NEVER HAVE TO LOOK AT A PICTURE TO REMEMBER THE FIVE OF US.
MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST WOULDN'T CHANGE.

I HAD TO FEEL SORRY FOR THE POOR FRESHMEN WHO'D COME BY THE SOS BRIGADE OUT OF RANDOM CURIOSITY, BUT IT WAS NICE OF THEM TO AMUSE HARUHI.

THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.

I'D BE SURPRISED IF THEY WERE THAT ENERGETIC, BUT...

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, MAYBE THREE OF THEM COULD RETURN TOMORROW.

I FELT LIKE I HAD THE LUXURY OF FEELING THAT WAY...

...AT THE TIME.

STILL, THAT WOULD BE FUN IN AND OF ITSELF.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

β—8

THE NEXT DAY, TUESDAY.
IT WAS A DEPRESSING MORNING.
THERE WAS A PROBLEM I HAD TO SOLVE.
CHUN (CHIRP)
CHUN
THE FIRST STEP ...
...WOULD BE ARTICULATING TO HARUHI JUST HOW GLUM I FELT.
SO I HAD TO DO SOMETHING.
CHUN
PI (TWEE) PII
CHUN
I WASN'T GOING TO RELY ON ANYONE ELSE TO DO SOMETHING THAT ONLY I COULD DO.
IN SHORT, I WAS AFRAID THAT SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME WAS GOING TO DISAPPEAR.

◎ THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IV

JUST HANG IN THERE, NAGATO— WE'LL HELP YOU GET BETTER.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD CRACK THIS SITU-ATION, SHORT OF HARUHI.
I OWED NAGATO QUITE A BIT SO FAR.
IF I DIDN'T PAY HER BACK NOW, IT WOULD REFLECT BADLY ON ALL OF HUMAN-ITY.
THIS WAS GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.
FIRST WE'D GO AFTER THE HEAV-ENLY CANOPY DO-MAIN...
THEN WE'D DEAL WITH THE TIME TRAV-ELER.

SFX: GARA (SLIDE)

WHEN I SAW YUKI SLEEPING, I JUST WANTED TO, LIKE ...

... GATHER HER UP AND HUG HER.

NOT IN LIKE A WEIRD WAY.

IT FEELS LIKE IF I DON'T, SHE'LL JUST DISAPPEAR.

I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, BUT STILL.

...SHE BE-LONGED IN THE LITER-ATURE CLUB ROOM, NOT IN A BED.

A HEALTHY NAGATO... SOME-THING ABOUT THE PHRASE WAS STRANGE, BUT...

LOOKED LIKE SHE FELT THE SAME WAY I DID.

OH, OKAY.

I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO NAGATO'S TODAY.

HEY, ABOUT THAT.

HMM ... YEAH ...
I GUESS THERE IS THAT TO CON-SIDER TOO...

WELL, THAT'S FINE.
MIKURU-CHAN AND I CAN MAKE DINNER.

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE. IT'S ONLY A LITTLE COLD.
WE'LL GIVE HER A SPONGE BATH INSTEAD OF PUTTING HER IN THE TUB.
YOU AND KOIZUMI-KUN SHOULDN'T COME TODAY.

...I JUST CAN'T IGNORE THIS SITUATION.

I FEEL A LITTLE BAD LEAVING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LIEUTENANT BRIGADE CHIEF, BUT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
FUMU (HMM)
I'LL HAVE TO TELL KOIZUMI-KUN TOO.

KUI
KUI (JERK)
WHAT'RE YOU WHISPERING ABOUT SO SERIOUSLY WITH SUZUMIYA THERE?
FINALLY GONNA START FILING JOINTLY, EH? YOU TRAITOR!

NU (LOOM)
HEYA, KYON.

SHE'D ACCEPTED MY HEAVY-HEARTED REQUEST, ANYWAY.
SHE WAS BEING PRETTY CRYPTIC. OH WELL.

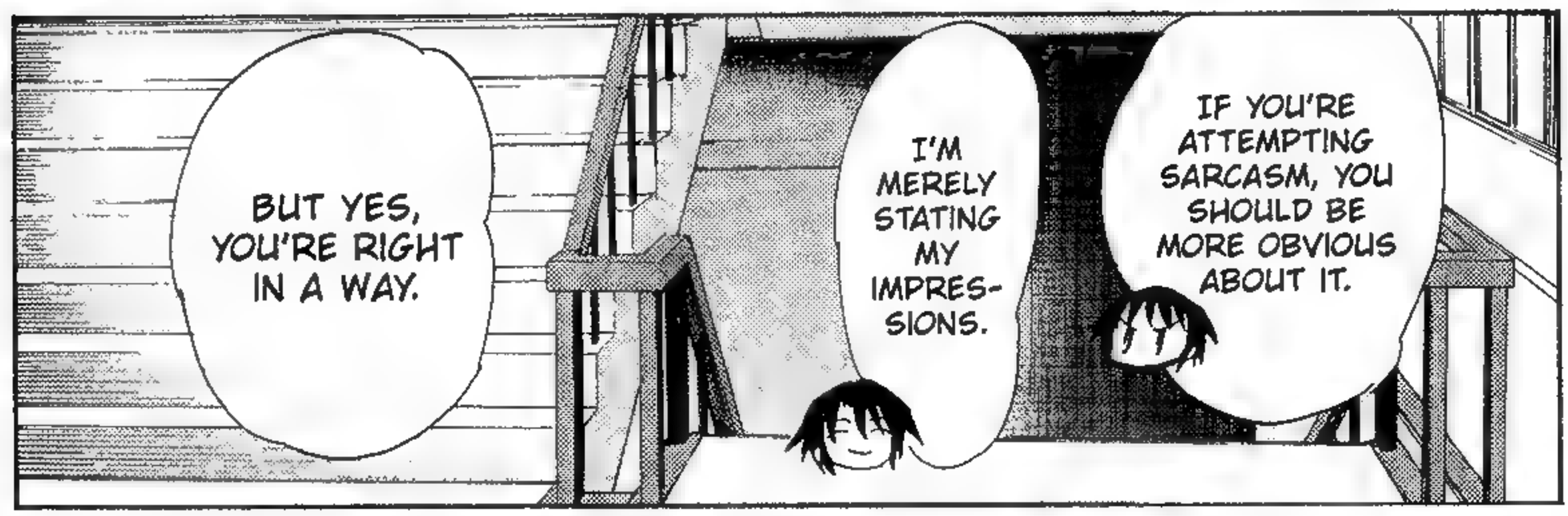
ALL IN DUE TIME, MY FRIEND.
FIRST COMES GOLDEN WEEK. I'M GONNA PICK UP A PART-TIME JOB, SEE WHERE THAT GOES...
YOU'RE CON-STANTLY BREAKING THE WORLD RECORD, EASY!
YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY GUY IN THE WORLD WHO COULD GO OUT WITH SUZUMIYA FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR.
ANY NEW FRESH-MEN YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A PASS AT?
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?
ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE!
PESHI (SMACK)
...MORON.
DAN (DUMB)

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY, THOUGH.
GETTING TO HAVE IDIOTIC CONVER-SATIONS LIKE THIS WAS GOOD FOR ME.
I WAS GLAD HE WAS STILL IN MY CLASS.
GOOD OLD TANI-GUCHI.

START WITH THE SECOND ONE, THEN.
SUZUMIYA-SAN HAS ORDERED ME TO STAY ON ALERT IN THE CLUB ROOM.
THE SECOND IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD.
I HAVE THINGS TO RE-PORT.
THE FIRST IS GOOD NEWS.

SHE HAS EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.
EVEN WHILE CARING FOR NAGATO-SAN, SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW CLUB MEMBERS.
SHE'S MUCH CALMER THAN YOU ARE.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I'M ROOM SIT-TING.
THE "NEW MEMBERS WANTED" POSTING IS STILL UP, AFTER ALL.

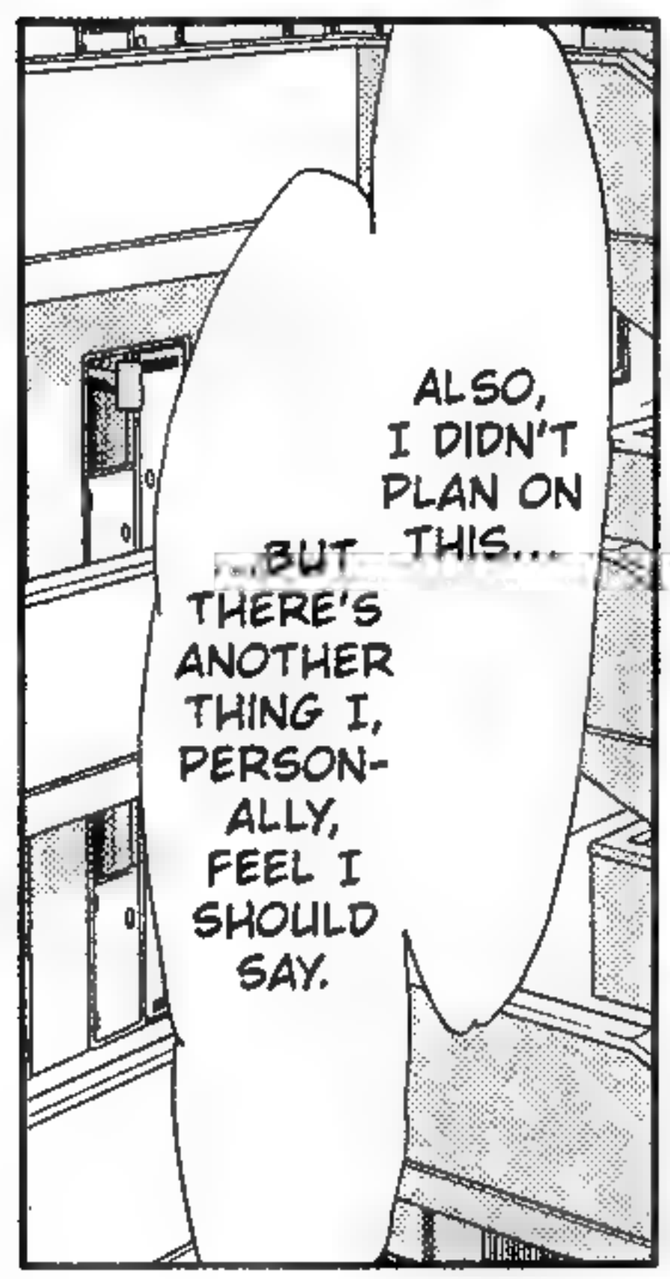

BUT YES, YOU'RE RIGHT IN A WAY.
I'M MERELY STATING MY IMPRES-SIONS.
IF YOU'RE ATTEMPTING SARCASM, YOU SHOULD BE MORE OBVIOUS ABOUT IT.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLIMENT?
ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU GETS LABELED AN ENEMY.
THAT'S HOW RIGHT YOU ARE.
IN FACT, YOU MIGHT BE TOO RIGHT.

REGARDING THE CLOSED SPACE AND CELESTIALS THAT'S SHOWING UP EVERY NIGHT...
THEY HAVE STOPPED APPEAR-ING ENTIRELY.

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS.

OBVIOUSLY THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM WITH NAGATO-SAN.
THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.
AND A SIGNIFICANT LOAD OFF MY SHOUL-DERS.


ALSO, I DIDN'T PLAN ON THIS...
...BUT THERE'S ANOTHER THING I, PERSON-ALLY, FEEL I SHOULD SAY.

SUZUMIYA-SAN IS WORRIED ABOUT NAGATO-SAN.
BUT SHE'S NOT IRRITATED PER SE.

ESPECIALLY SINCE WINTER VACATION.
TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, YOU ARE BEING TOO CONSIDERATE OF NAGATO-SAN.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT HER TO THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, YOU'RE MISPLACING YOUR PRIORITIES.
KI (FLASH)
INTERACTION WITH ANOTHER EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE-FORM IS WHAT'S CAUSING NAGATO-SAN'S PRESENT CONDITION.
YOU'RE SAYING SHE'S SOME KIND OF MINOR DETAIL?
PLEASE, THINK ABOUT THIS.
NOT AT ALL.

BUT ASAHINA-SAN DOES NOT SEEM TO.

TIME TRAVELERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PAST.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SOME OTHER FACTION WON'T TRY TO USE THIS CONFLICT.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT IGNORANCE IMPLY?

THAT'S ONE THING THAT MAKES HER UNIQUE.

...WOULDN'T THAT BE THE PERFECT TIME FOR THEM TO ACT?

CON-SIDER THIS ...

IF THEY KNEW NAGATO-SAN WAS GOING TO BE FORCIBLY SIDELINED...

FROM THE TIME TRAV-ELERS' PERSPEC-TIVE, SHE'S THE PERFECT DECOY FOR US IN THE PAST.

SO WHAT'S HE PLAN-NING?

NOW THAT NAGATO'S DOWN, IT'S FUJIWARA'S CHANCE, HUH?

AND SHE'S THE ONE THE TIME TRAVELER LEAST WANTS INTERFERING.

SHE'S THE SOS BRIGADE'S MOST POWERFUL ASSET, AND SHE'S WON YOUR TRUST ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

...MORE LIKE A LOW-PROBA-BILITY GUESS ON MY PART, BUT...

ALSO, THIS ISN'T A RE-PORT ...

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

I WAS VAGUELY HOPING YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THAT.

THAT I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT IF THEY'VE DISAPPEARED IN ORDER TO BUILD UP ENERGY RESERVES FOR SOMETHING YET TO COME?

WE MAY HAVE SERIOUSLY MISUNDER-STOOD THE SITUATION.

CELESTIALS HAVE STOPPED APPEARING, WHICH IS CURIOUS.

HEYA, KYON.
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE OF MY OWN ACTIONS.
IT HAD BEEN LIKE THAT BEFORE NOW, BUT STILL.
SHAAAAAAA (WSHHHHH)
THERE WERE LOTS OF THINGS ABOUT THIS SITUATION THAT WERE UNCLEAR.

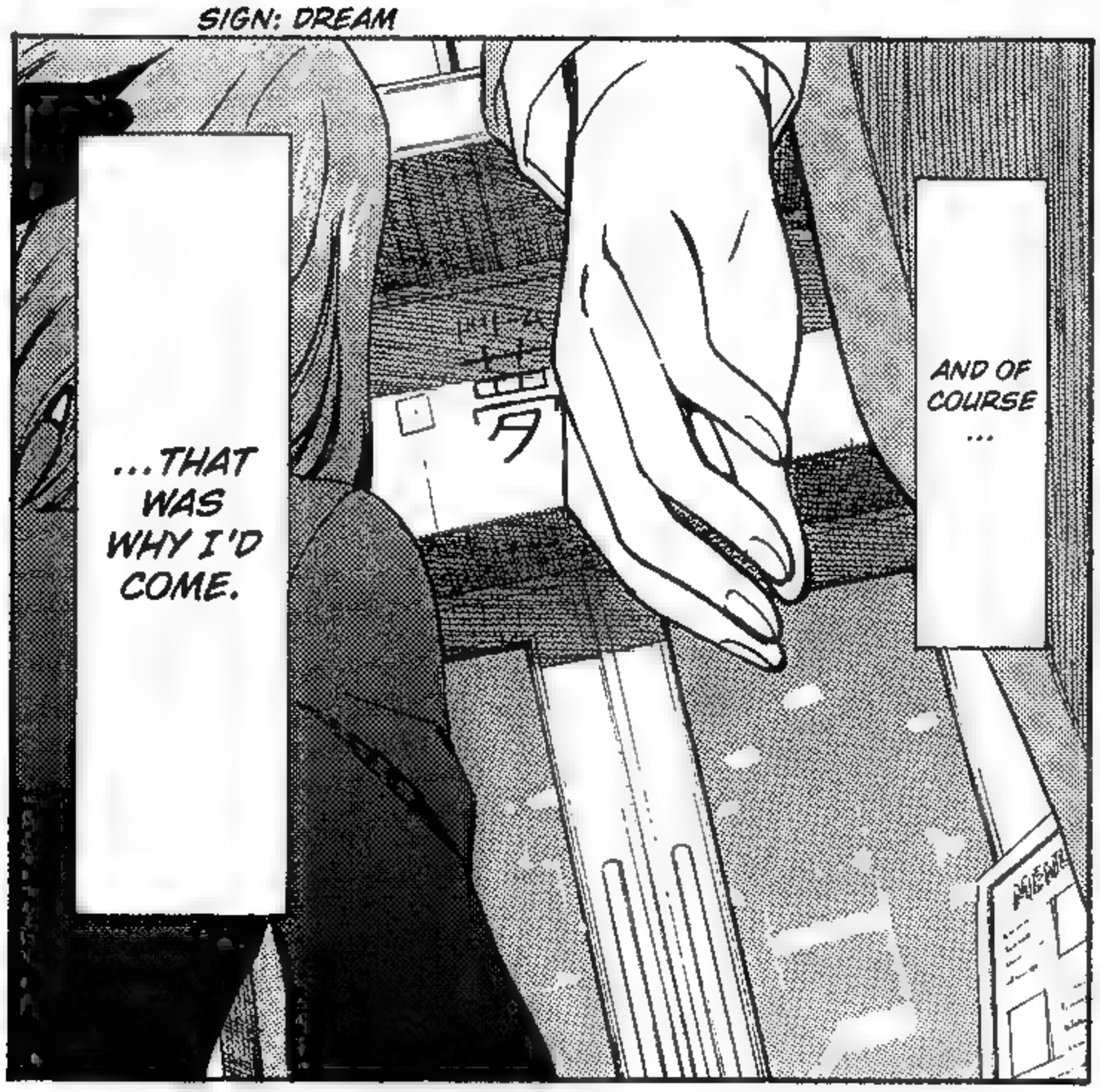
I WASN'T GOING TO HAVE ANYONE TO CALL FOR BACKUP.

OH REALLY?

NEITHER KIMIDORI-SAN NOR ASAKURA WERE GOING TO COME IN AND INTER-VENE.

THIS WAS EARTH, AND IT BELONGED TO EARTH-LINGS LIKE ME.

SIGN: DREAM



OVER HERE!

THANK YOU, SASAKI-SAN...

...FOR BRINGING HIM ALONG.

YOU HAVE MY GRATI-TUDE.

DON'T NEED IT, REALLY.

EVEN IF I HADN'T BROUGHT HIM, WE WOULD'VE HAD TO ENCOUNTER HIM EVEN-TUALLY.

OTHERWISE OUR LIVES WOULD'VE BEEN PERFECTLY PARALLEL LINES.

AM I WRONG?

SHE WAS MORE PERVERSE THAN ME AND MORE PRACTICAL THAN HARUHI.

SASAKI REALLY WAS MY FRIEND.

I REALIZED IT ANEW.

HMPH.

SASAKI'S NOT GONNA BE EASY TO PERSUADE.

I FEEL BAD FOR HER CHOSEN OPPONENTS.

THERE'S TOO GREAT A DIFFERENCE IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US.

IT'S A WARNING.

THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE A WASTE OF TIME.

YOU'D DO WELL NOT TO THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELVES.

THIS ISN'T ADVICE.

THE ALIEN TERMINAL WHO'D DO WHATEVER YOU TOLD HER IS OUT OF COMMISSION.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO LOSE YOUR MOST POWERFUL SHIELD?

SO LET'S HEAR WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO NEXT, EH?

NOW, KYON.

THAT'S GOING TOO FAR...

YOU SON OF A—

GATAN (THUNK)

BUT WHEN I DO, I SCARE EVEN MYSELF.

I ONLY GET ANGRY ABOUT ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS.

I'M FAIRLY MILD-TEMPERED MYSELF.

I CAN'T JUST SIT BY AND LET YOU GET VIOLENT.

THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU TOO.

KO (CLUNK)

...

THE LAST TIME I LOST MY TEMPER WAS JUST ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO.

I HOPE YOU'LL HELP ME KEEP THE STREAK ALIVE.

KARAN (CLINK)

UH, KUYOH-SAN?

ER ...

I'LL HEAR ABOUT THAT LATER.

KATA (SHAKE)

THESE ARE...

... WORDS OF GRATI-TUDE.

KATA

KATA

KATA

YES-TER-DAY ...

THANK YOU.

BUT WE LACKED THE POWER NECESSARY TO OPPOSE KOIZUMI-SAN AND HIS GROUP.

IN FACT, SOONER WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.

IT'S CLEAR THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED SOONER OR LATER.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY.

THIS MEETING IS VERY IMPOR-TANT.

YOU MAY NOT REGARD ME AS A COMRADE, BUT YOU CAN WORK WITH ME AND FIGHT BY MY SIDE, RIGHT?

PAA (BEAM)

...THE POWER TO MOVE THE WORLD.

BUT I'VE FINALLY ASSEMBLED THE POWER...

LET'S START BY HEARING THAT, SHALL WE?

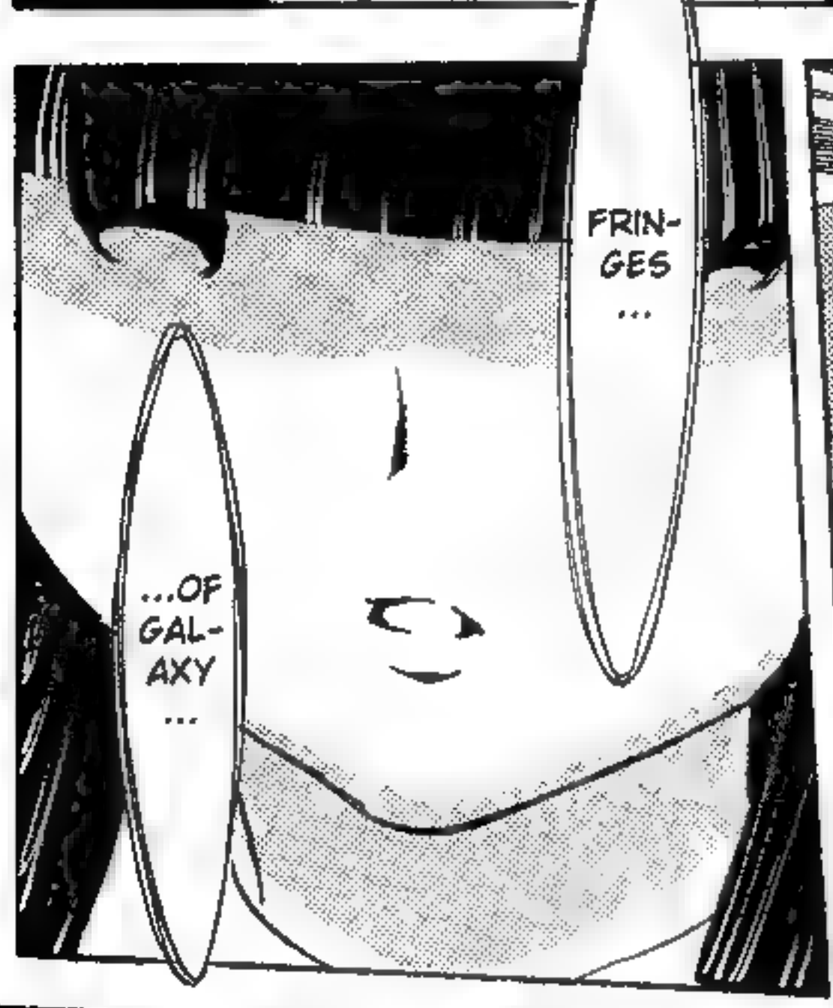
PLEASE, GO AHEAD.

THE REASON WE'VE ASSEM-BLED TODAY...

...IS THAT THROUGH SASAKI-SAN, WE'VE HEARD YOUR PROPOSAL.

BUT WHAT-EVER IT IS...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'RE DOING.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

IT'S ABOUT NAGA-TO.


FRIN-GES ...
...OF GAL-AXY ...

IF YOU ALIENS WANT TO FIGHT, GO DO IT ON THE FRINGES OF THE GALAXY.
...STOP THIS RIDIC-ULOUS ATTACK ON NAGATO!

...VERY RARE.
... THAT IS HERE.
THIS STAR'S LOCA-TION.

SO CONCLUDE IT!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

...MAY DO SO.

...WHEN BUSI-NESS CON-CLU-DED.

YES, LET'S.

HEH.

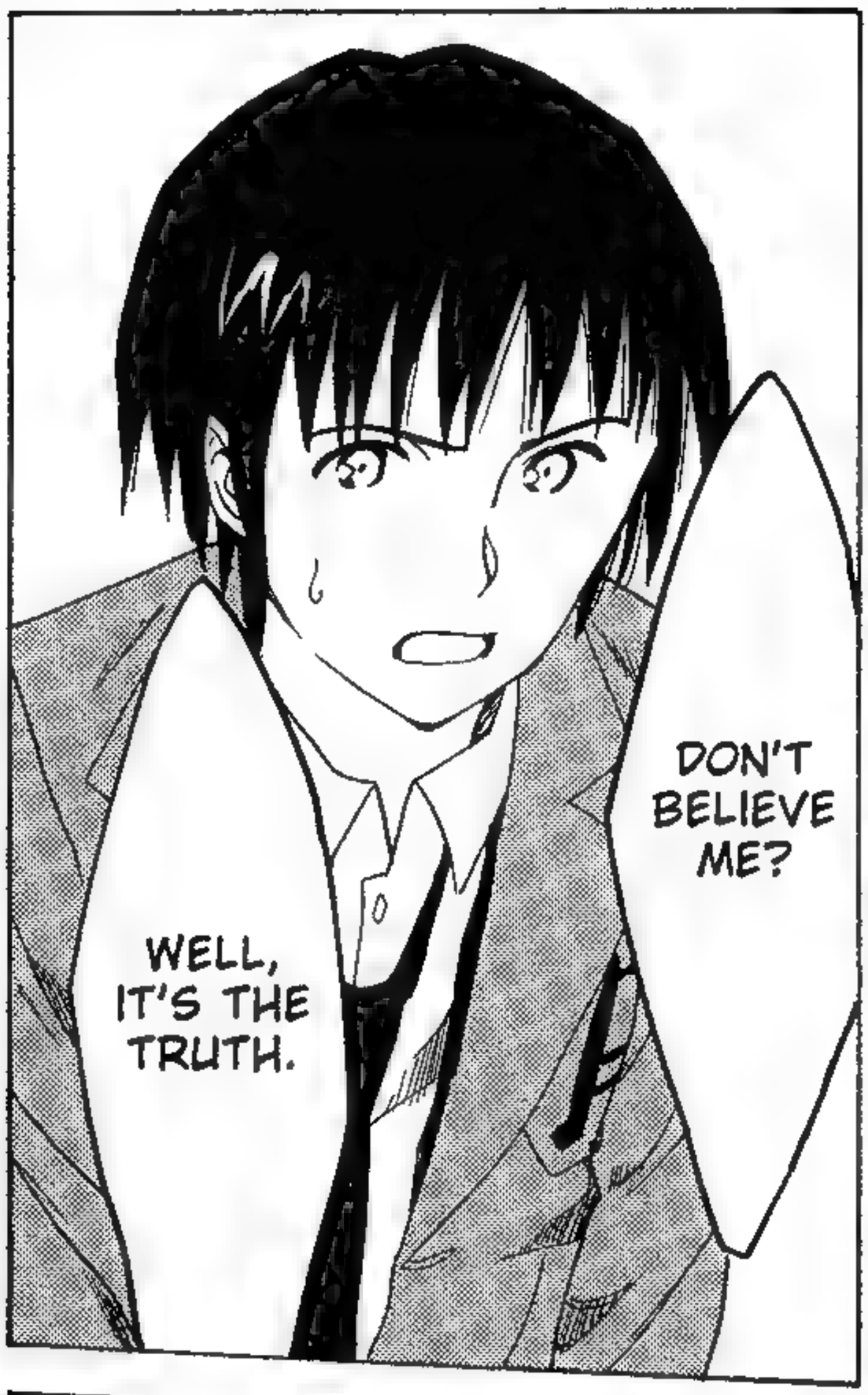
IN ANY CASE, I SEE YOU WON'T ALLOW THAT DOLL OF YOURS TO MALFUNC-TION.

BUT I'LL RESTRAIN MY CURI-OSITY FOR NOW.

WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE SO LOYAL TO THIS YUKI NAGATO?

YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH NERVE TO PICK A FIGHT WITH AN EXTRATER-RESTRIAL INTELLI-GENCE...

...EVEN IF YOUR BRAVERY IS BORNE OF IGNOR-ANCE.


WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH.
DON'T BELIEVE ME?

BY ME.
THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN'S INTER-FERENCE WITH YOUR TERMINAL CAN BE STOPPED.

...THIS REP-RESENTS THE CONSENSUS OF ALL THREE OF US.
THEY ACCEPTED OUR PROPOSAL QUITE READILY.
OH, AND BY THE WAY...

THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN IS FAR EASIER TO CONTROL THAN THE DATA OVERMIND.

...HMM, FUJI-WARA-KUN.

THAT WAS PROPOSED THE OTHER DAY TOO.

TRANSFER ALL OF HARUHI SUZU-MIYA'S POWER TO SASAKI.

YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO AGREE.

EVEN IF THE GOAL IS THE SAME, IF THE PATH TO IT IS DIFFERENT, THE NECESSARY DEVELOPMENTS ALSO CHANGE.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

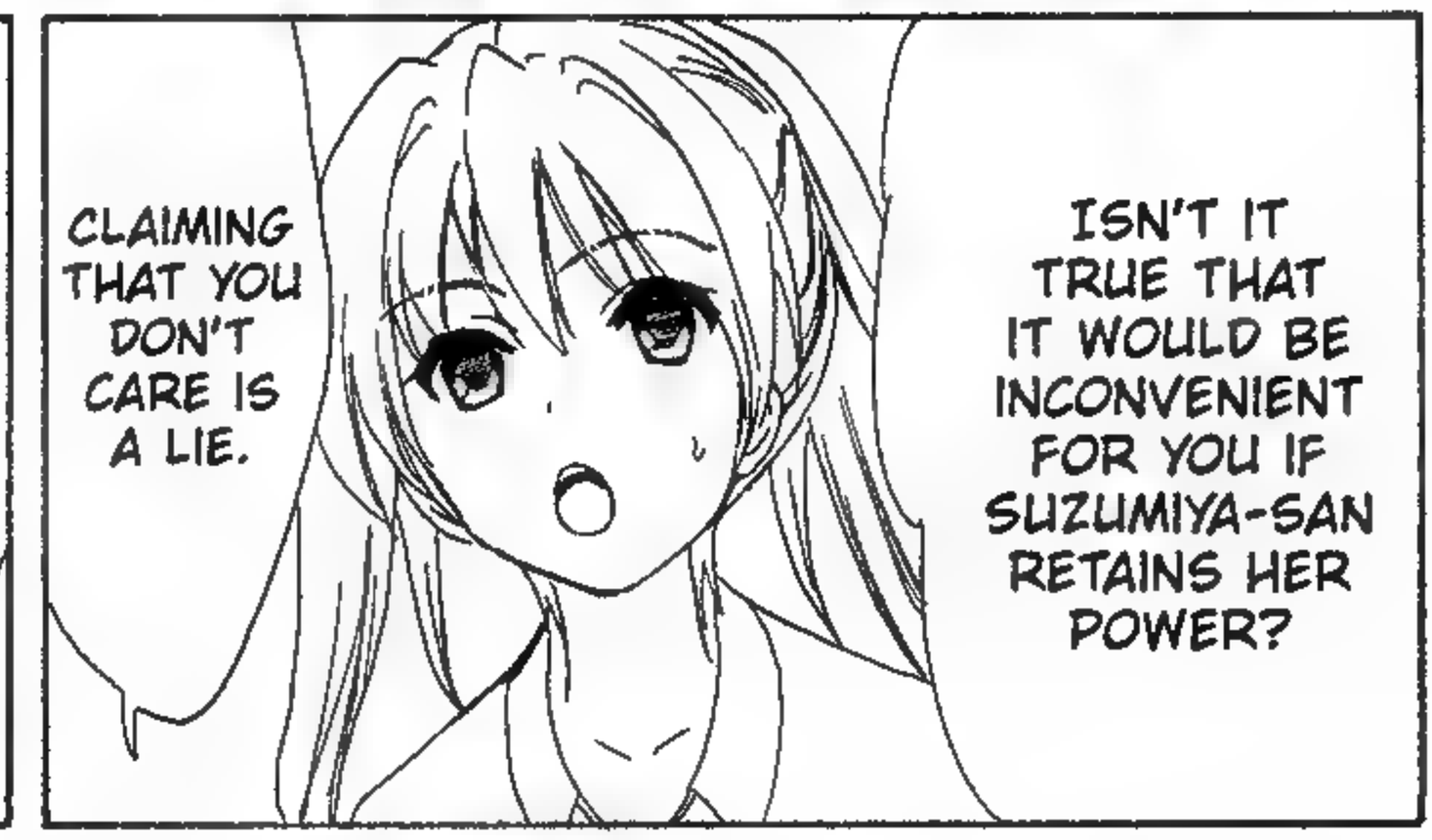
I STILL DON'T CARE.

AT THE TIME, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T CARE WHO HAD THE POWER?

OR IF IT'S NOT, THIS IS JUST AN ACT.

IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE TO ME.

THAT'S JUST SOPHISTRY.



SO, MISTER TIME TRAVELER, HOW MUCH OF THIS IS A FIXED EVENT?
LIKE THE FACT THAT I WAS KYON'S FRIEND IN THE PAST.
BUT SOME THINGS CAN'T BE MERE COINCI-DENCE.
AND SHE'S NOT EVEN PART OF SOME CRAZY ORGANIZATION LIKE KOIZUMI IS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST HER MIND WORKS!
HUH?
AM I, KYOKO TACHI-BANA?
I'M NOT LYING.
AM I SUPPOSE TO FEEL CHAS-TISED?

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE THE ONE THAT PUT HER UP TO IT?
NOW WAIT JUST A SECOND. KUYOH'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR NAGATO'S CONDITION, RIGHT?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COOPERATED.
ER, THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS AT MY REQUEST.

FIXED PAST EVENTS, WHEN VIEWED FROM THE FUTURE, HAVE NOTHING MORE THAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE.
TAN (SLAM)
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
THE RESULT IS PRECISELY THE SAME!
BAN (BAM)
WHO CREATED THIS STAGE?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

IS IT THIS FUJIWARA GUY?

IS IT THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN?

OR IS IT KYOKO TACHI-BANA...?

...JUST HOW DENSE ARE YOU?

DAMMIT... JUST WHAT IS HE TRYING TO SAY?

WHO'S THE REAL MASTERMIND?

WHY DO YOU GET TO MAKE THAT CALL, EXACTLY?

I THOUGHT THEY WERE SOME KIND OF EXTRA-WHATEVER LIFE-FORM THAT NOBODY COULD COMMUNICATE WITH!

YOU WANT YUKI NAGATO TO RECOVER ...

...AND I'M TELLING YOU I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

DON'T SCREW WITH ME...!

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

BA (BAM)

LIKE I'D BELIEVE YOU!

WHAT "FAVOR" !?

YOU THINK I'M JOKING?

I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR EVEN TELLING YOU THIS.

...I WILL EXECUTE ORDER...

SOMEBODY WANNA TRANSLATE THAT FOR ME?

INDIRECT VOCAL CONTACT WITH TERMINALS WAS NOISE.

DIRECT CONTACT IMPOSSIBLE.

THAT IS ALSO A POSSIBLE BRANCH.

WILL CANCEL INTERFERENCE AND SEEK ALTERNATE METHOD.

SOMEBODY TURN A FLASHLIGHT ON!

HAS EVERYTHING TURNED TO CHAOS?

FAILING TO INSTANTLY STOP EQUIVALENT TO ETERNITY.

WASTE OF ENERGY.

MUTUAL CONCEPT TRANSMISSION OVERLOADED.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IV : END

AND FUJIWARA-KUN ...

BUT SHE'S DETERMINED THAT THE ACTION SHE'S TAKING IS INEFFECTIVE.

IF FUJIWARA-KUN SAYS THE WORD, SHE'LL STOP IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT SHE MEANS ...

...IS THAT NAGATO-SAN'S CONDITION IS HER FAULT.

β—8

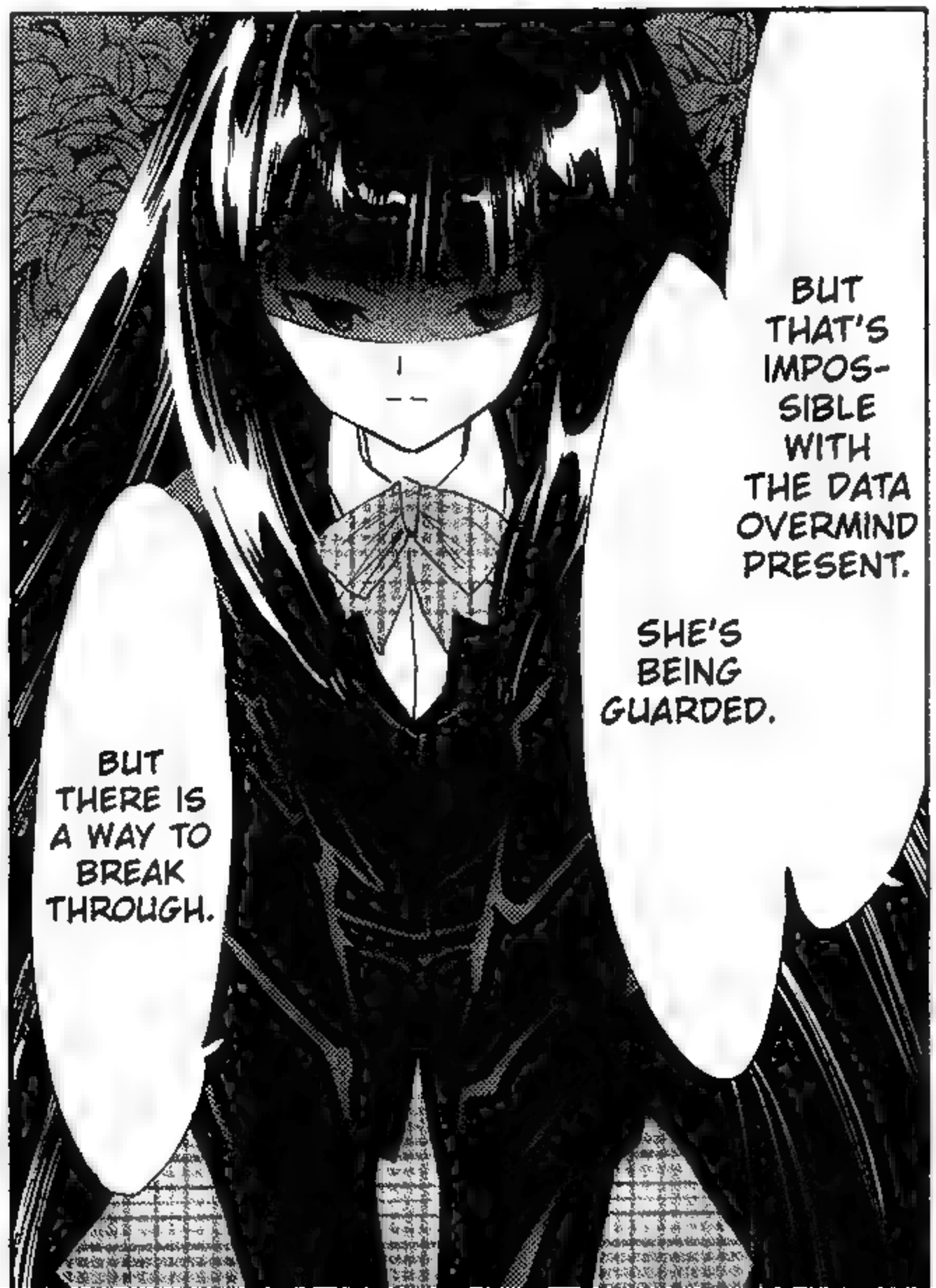
...IS MAKING THAT A CONDITION OF TRANSFERRING SUZUMIYA-SAN'S POWERS TO ME.

...YES.

◎ THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V

NO, ER...
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY ...

WE WANT TO SEE THE SITUATION CHANGE IN A WAY THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE HERE.
TACHIBANA WANTS TO WORSHIP SASAKI AS A GOD, APPARENTLY.
ZU (SIP)
ZU


BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE WITH THE DATA OVERMIND PRESENT.
SHE'S BEING GUARDED.
BUT THERE IS A WAY TO BREAK THROUGH.

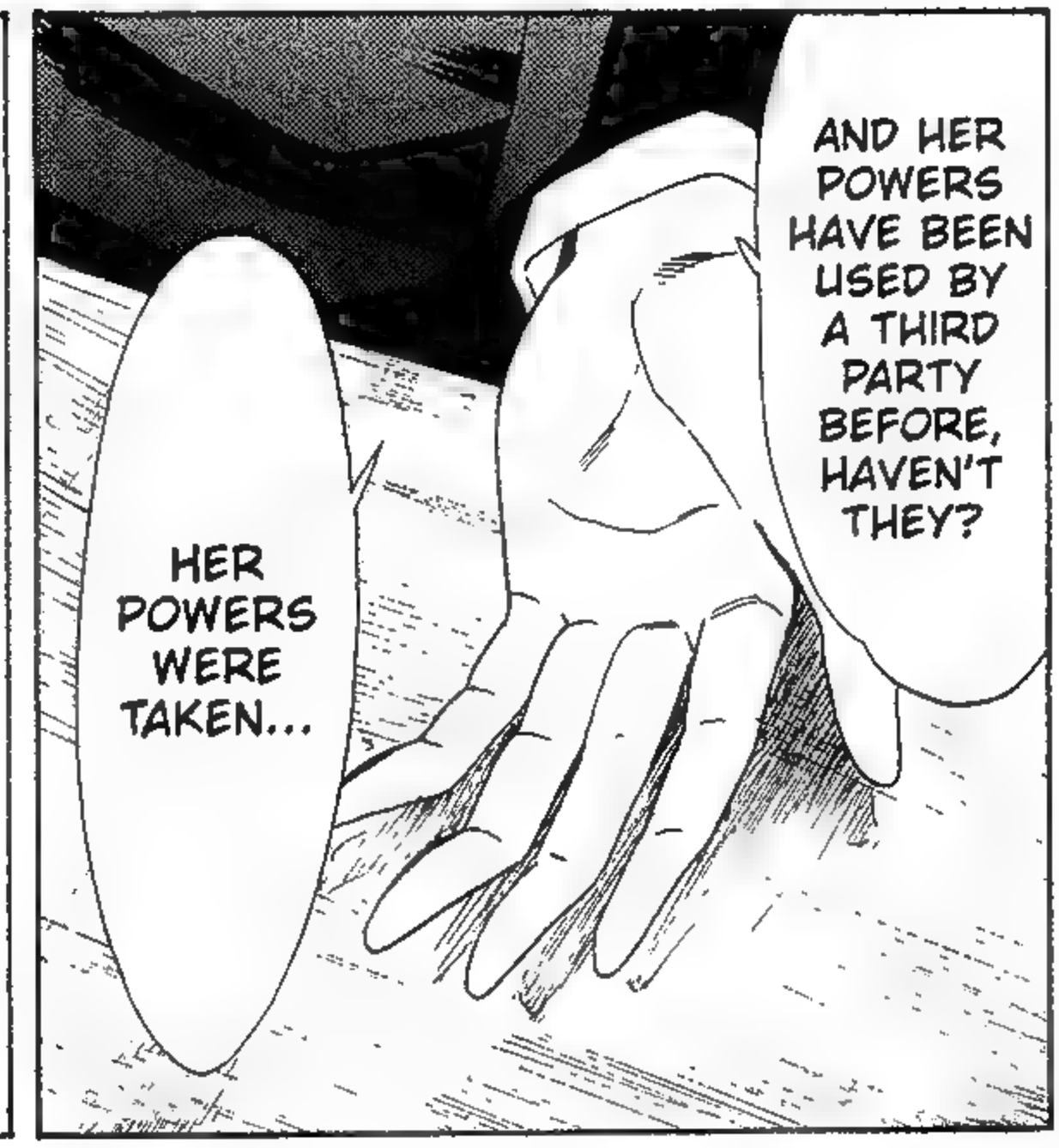
KUYOH'S FACTION WISHES TO STUDY HARUHI SUZUMIYA ...
KO (THNK)

AND JUST WHO IN THE WORLD CAN DO THAT?
KUYOH WILL DO IT.
ZU (SIP)
ZU

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT UNKNOWN POWER.
WE NEED ONLY TRANSFER IT TO A THIRD PARTY.

SUZUMIYA HARUHI CAN DO ANYTHING.
HEH HEH...
HEY, C'MON, DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.

...AND USED TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD REMEMBER.


AND HER POWERS HAVE BEEN USED BY A THIRD PARTY BEFORE, HAVEN'T THEY?
HER POWERS WERE TAKEN...

THESE BASTARDS ...

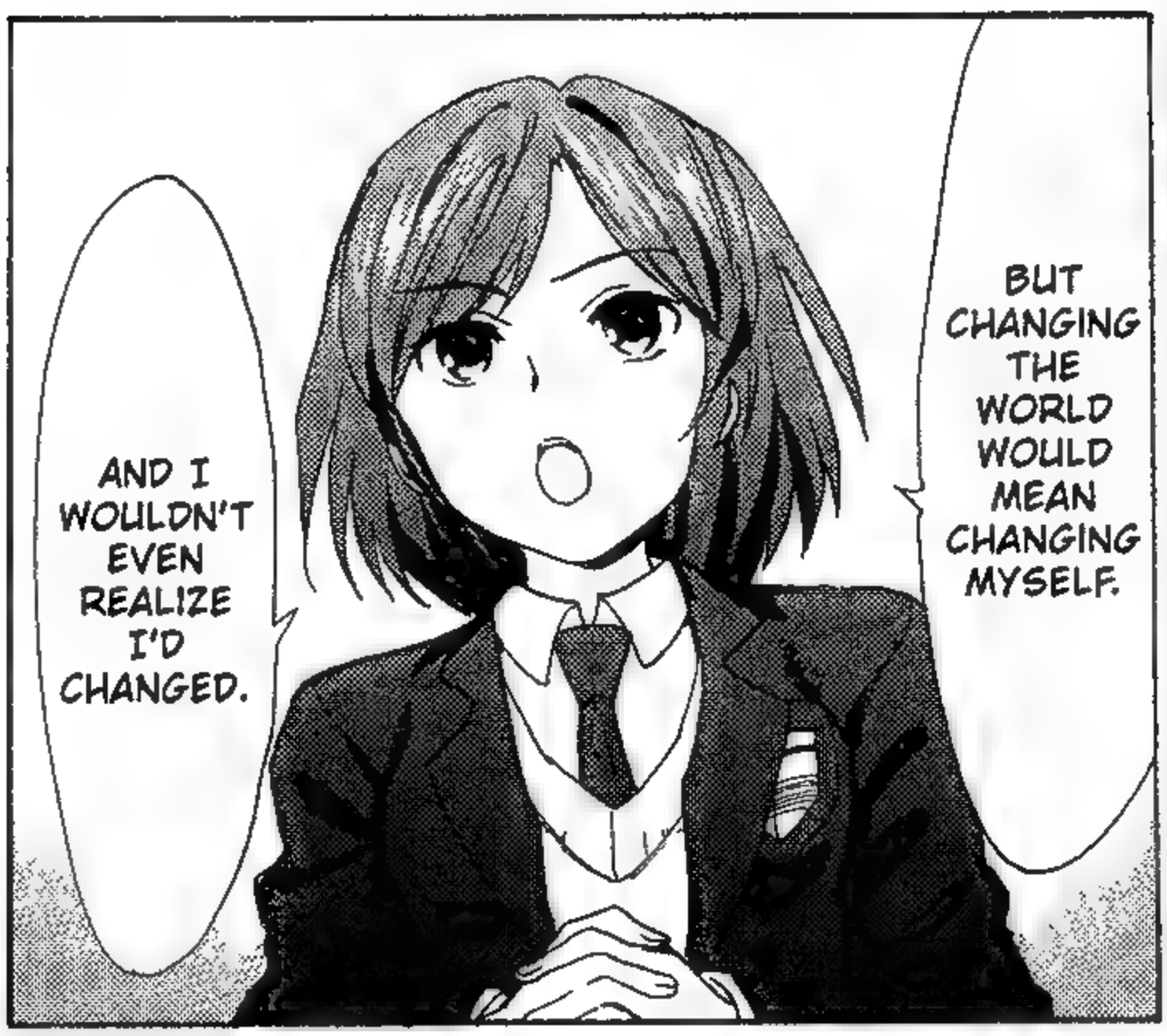
SO THEY'RE HOLDING NAGATO HOSTAGE, HUH?

AND TO SAVE HER, I HAVE TO TURN HARUHI'S POWERS OVER?

I WISH YOU GUYS WOULD CONSIDER MY OPINION GIVEN THAT I'M THE INTERESTED PARTY HERE.

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T THINK I REALLY WANT THAT POWER.


AND I WOULDN'T EVEN REALIZE I'D CHANGED.
BUT CHANGING THE WORLD WOULD MEAN CHANGING MYSELF.

THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD...
... THAT'S ONE THING IN AND OF ITSELF.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO A DILEMMA.
BECAUSE I'D LOSE THOSE MEMORIES.

Mm...
THAT'S A LITTLE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.

I WOULD HAVE AMAZING POWERS ...
...BUT I WOULD NEVER BE AWARE OF THEIR EFFECTS.

THEY DENY IT, OR THEY TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT.

PEOPLE HAVE TWO KINDS OF REACTIONS WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER SOMETHING THEY DON'T UNDER-STAND.

...WHY THEY CAN'T UNDER-STAND SOME-THING.

PEOPLE NEED TO ASK THEM-SELVES ...

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL WORLD-VIEW.

NEITHER IS PARTIC-ULARLY CORRECT.

...YOU'D NEVER ENCOUNTER ANYTHING ODD OR HAVE TO UNDER-STAND ANYTHING.

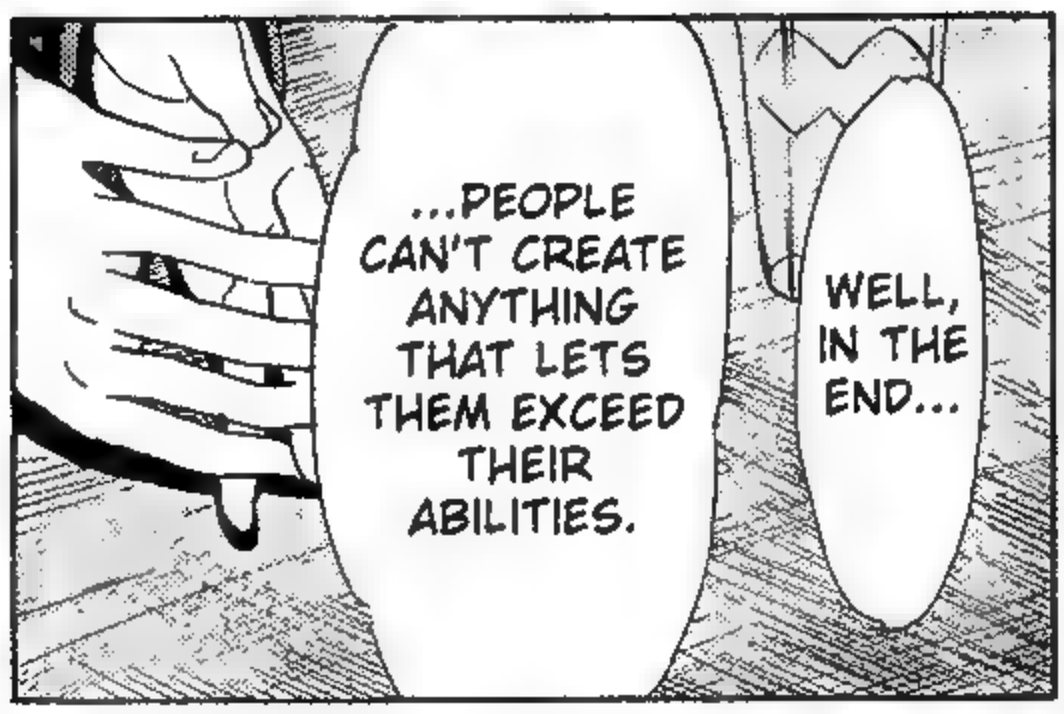
IF YOU COULD SIMPLY CONTROL THE WHOLE WORLD...

AND COME UP WITH A SATIS-FYING ANSWER TO THAT QUES-TION.

KARAN (CLANK)

THE ANSWER IS WITHIN ME.
AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RELEASING IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU THREE.
AND I DON'T WANT TO EXPLAIN WHY.


...PEOPLE CAN'T CREATE ANYTHING THAT LETS THEM EXCEED THEIR ABILITIES.
WELL, IN THE END...

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHUT UP AND NOD YOUR HEAD.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU WANT.

EVEN IF I DID HAVE THAT POWER, I DOUBT I'D HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO USE IT.
IT'S ALL JUST SMOKE AND MIRRORS.

NO AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUALISM CAN CHANGE THAT.

...IS THE RESULT OF EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING EVER SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF HUMANITY.

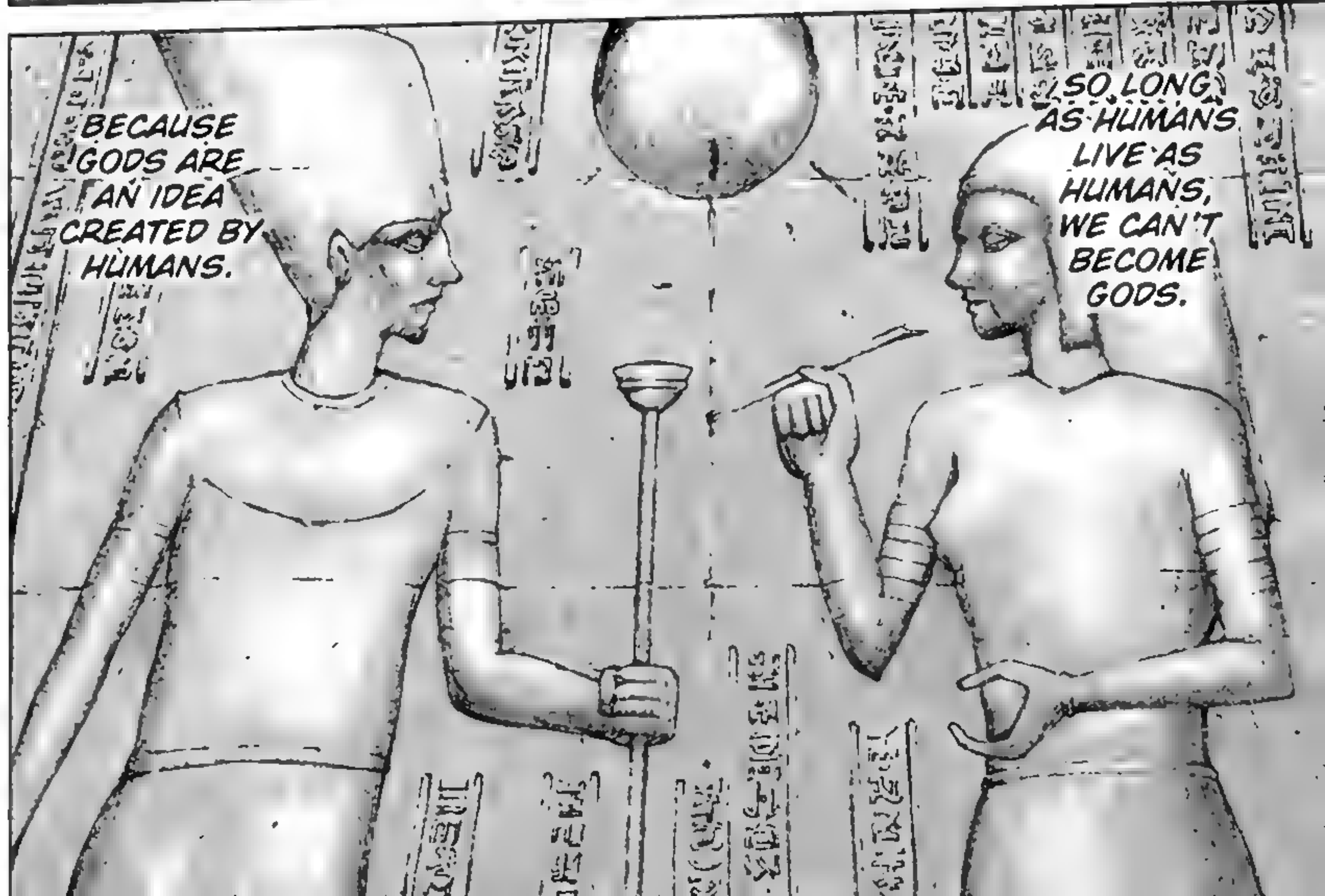
I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE COULD EITHER.

AND EVEN IF I DID HAVE THAT POWER, I COULDN'T GUARANTEE THAT I'D BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER.

FOR EXAMPLE...
...CONSIDER THE EARTH AS A SPACESHIP.

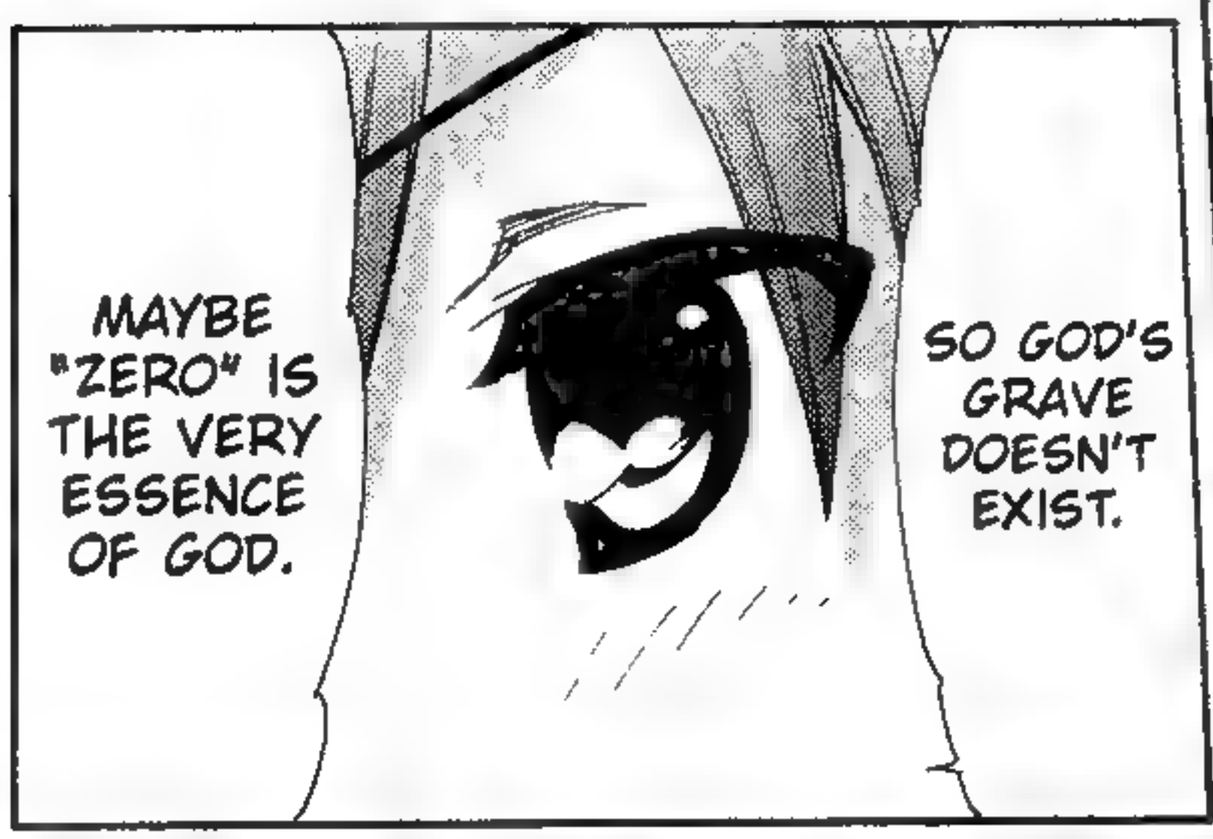
HUMANITY HASN'T ADVANCED FAR ENOUGH FOR THAT.

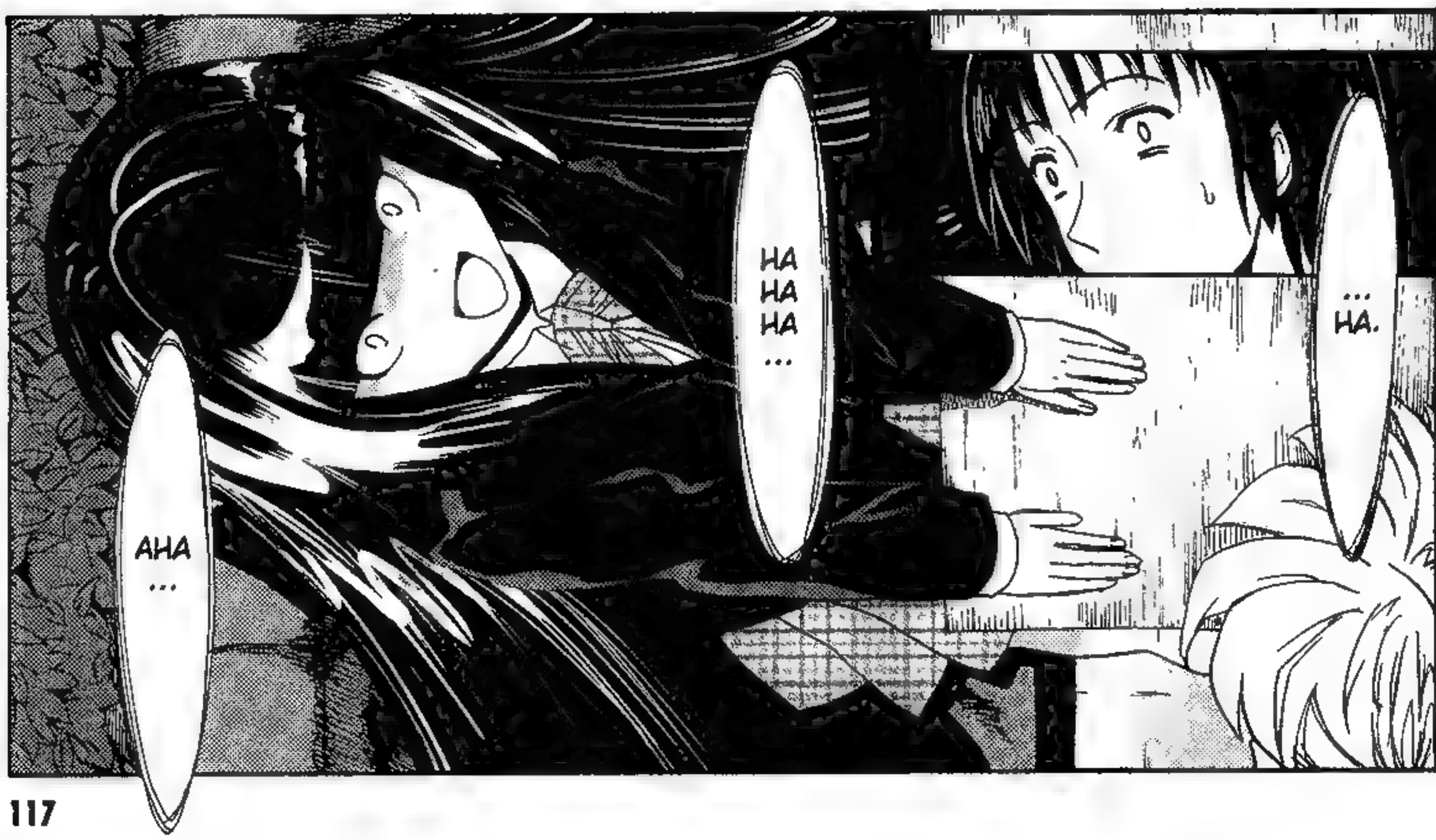
IT MIGHT DECIDE TO EJECT THIS DIVISIVE SPECIES OF PRIMATE INTO SPACE.
WHAT IF THAT SPACESHIP BECAME AWARE OF ITSELF?


BECAUSE GODS ARE AN IDEA CREATED BY HUMANS.
SO LONG AS HUMANS LIVE AS HUMANS, WE CAN'T BECOME GODS.

BEFORE GOD DIED, HE WAS NEVER BORN.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BECOME THE MANIFESTATION OF AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT.

AND IN ALL OF RECORDED HISTORY, NO GODS HAVE EVER APPEARED.


MAYBE "ZERO" IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF GOD.
SO GOD'S GRAVE DOESN'T EXIST.


AHA ...
HA HA HA ...
... HA.

WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?
KU KU KU...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE, PAST-DWELLER.
はHA はHA ...

はHA はHA
HOW ABSURD ...
HA HA...
はHA はHA はHA はHA

YOU THINK A BIT TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF, I'D SAY.
DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ALL THIS?
I'M NOT KUYOH, BUT IT STILL MAKES ME WANT TO LAUGH.
はHA はHA はHA
はHA はHA

HA
HA
KU
KU...
THAT'S NOT EVEN GOOD COMEDY. I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
YOU'RE MERELY A PUPPET.
I'LL ADMIT YOU MOVE WELL.
HA
HA
HA
BUT THAT'S ALL.
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
YOUR ACTIONS ...
...HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR OWN VOLITION!

THAT WAS WHY THEY EACH WANTED TO HEAR MY THOUGHTS.
THESE GUYS...
...THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT US HUMANS.
I WAS REMINDED AGAIN.
BUT IF KUYOH HAD THAT CHANCE... OR ASAKURA OR KIMIDORI-SAN...
...SHE COULD CRUSH US WHENEVER SHE WANTED.
WHEN HARUHI DISAPPEARED, NAGATO HAD OVERFLOWED WITH HUMANITY...

...WHO STEPS ON THE ANT AT HER FEET, JUST BECAUSE IT'S THERE.

SHE HAD THE INNOCENCE OF A CHILD...

KUYOH'S SMILE MADE HER LOOK LIKE A GIRL WHO'D BEEN GIVEN A NEW TOY.

THIS IS TERRIBLE.

AW, EVERYTHING IS SPOILED NOW.

...THIS IS ALL SUZUMIYA-SAN'S FAULT.

BUT CONSIDER THIS...

PLEASE.

I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT SUZUMIYA-SAN AND THE SOS BRIGADE A LOT.

EVEN IF SUZUMIYA-SAN LOSES HER POWER, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THE SOS BRIGADE WILL BREAK UP, RIGHT?
NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

IT'S BECAUSE OF HER POWER THAT NAGATO'S ILL.
AND WHY YOU KEEP GETTING SUCKED INTO STRANGE EVENTS.

...BUT THAT WILL BE ALL.
AND ASAHINA-SAN WILL STILL BE FROM THE FUTURE ...
NAGATO-SAN WILL STILL BE AN ALIEN.
KOIZUMI-SAN WILL STILL REPRESENT THE AGENCY.

EVERYONE WILL STILL GET ALONG LIKE THEY ALWAYS HAVE.
YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SUZUMIYA-SAN'S ACTIONS.

WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'D BARELY QUALIFY AS A SCHOOL INTEREST GROUP.
SO...
AND IF YOU STILL WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE KINDS OF MYSTERIOUS EVENTS YOU'VE ENDURED THUS FAR...
THERE'D BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYMORE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS THINK OF IT AS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITH SASAKI-SAN.
YOU HAVE US.
I'M SURE ALL SORTS OF THINGS COULD HAPPEN.

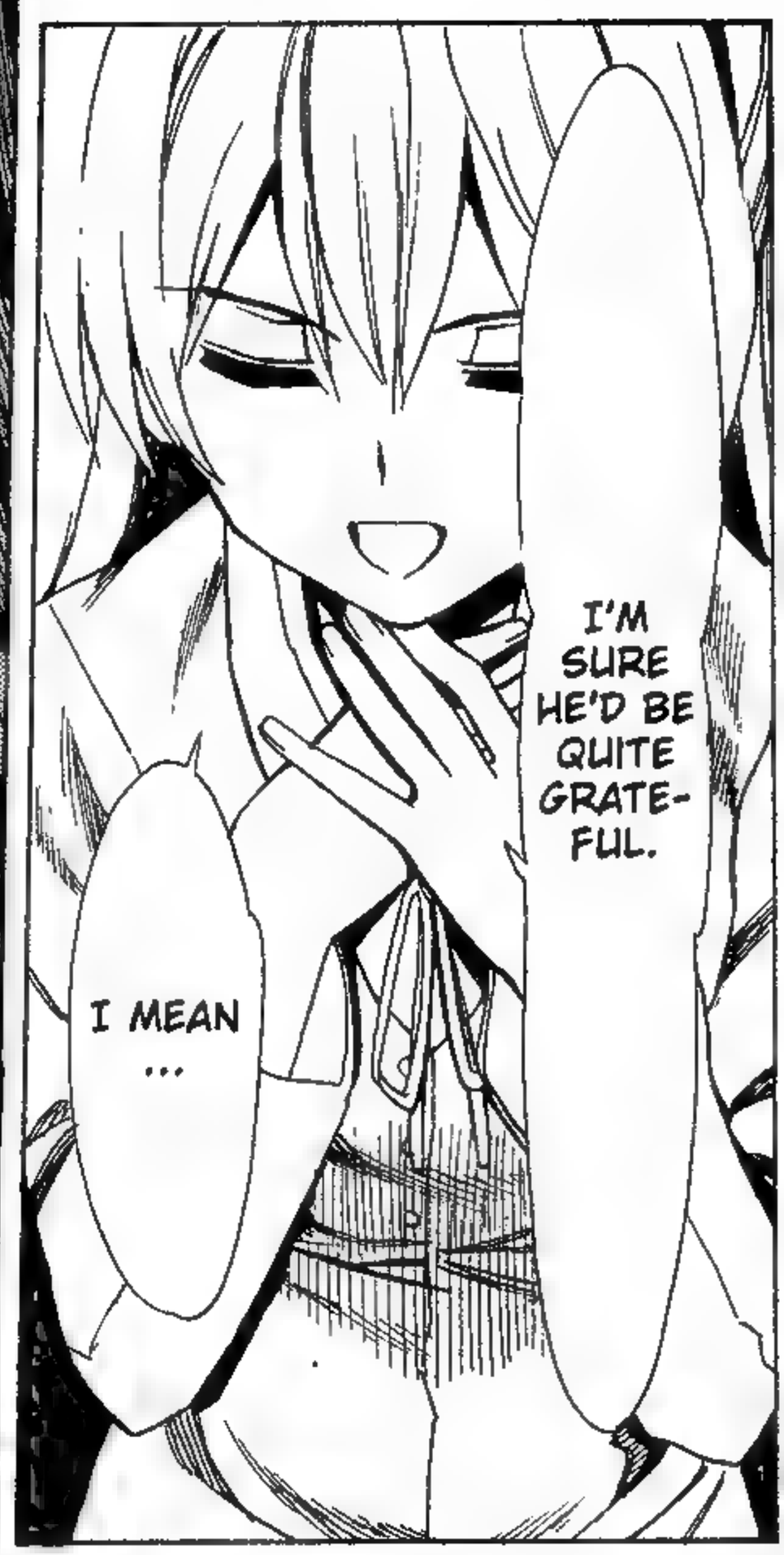
I WAS LITERALLY STRUCK DUMB.

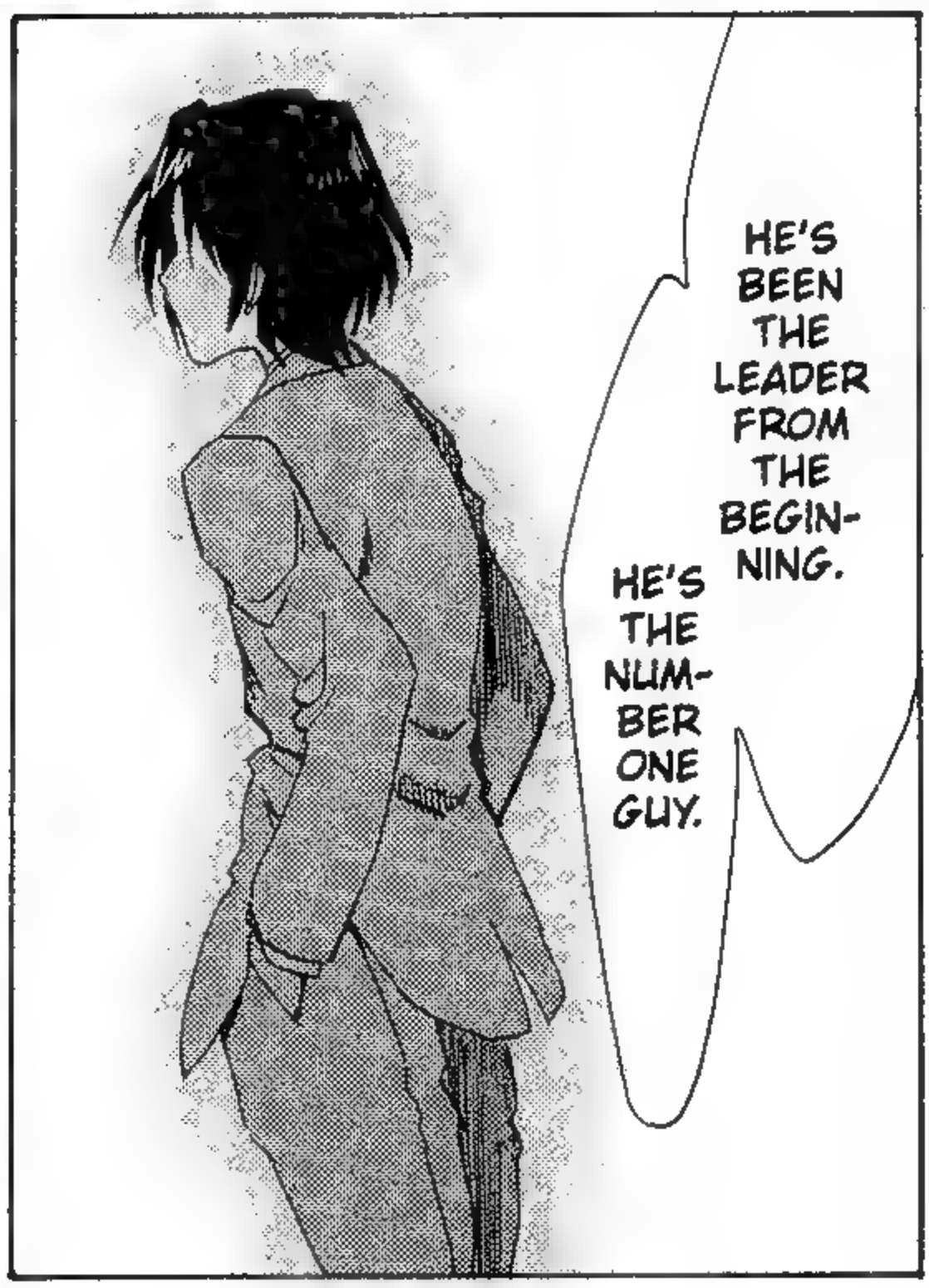
SHE WAS INVITING US TO ORGANIZE A SECOND SOS BRIGADE.

TO REMOVE HARUHI AND INSTALL SASAKI AS THE LEADER OF THE NEWLY REBORN BRIGADE...

KOIZUMI-SAN CREATED THE AGENCY FROM THE GROUND UP.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW?





NO, I COULDN'T GET FLUSTERED.

WAS THAT TRUE?

IT MIGHT BE A BLUFF.

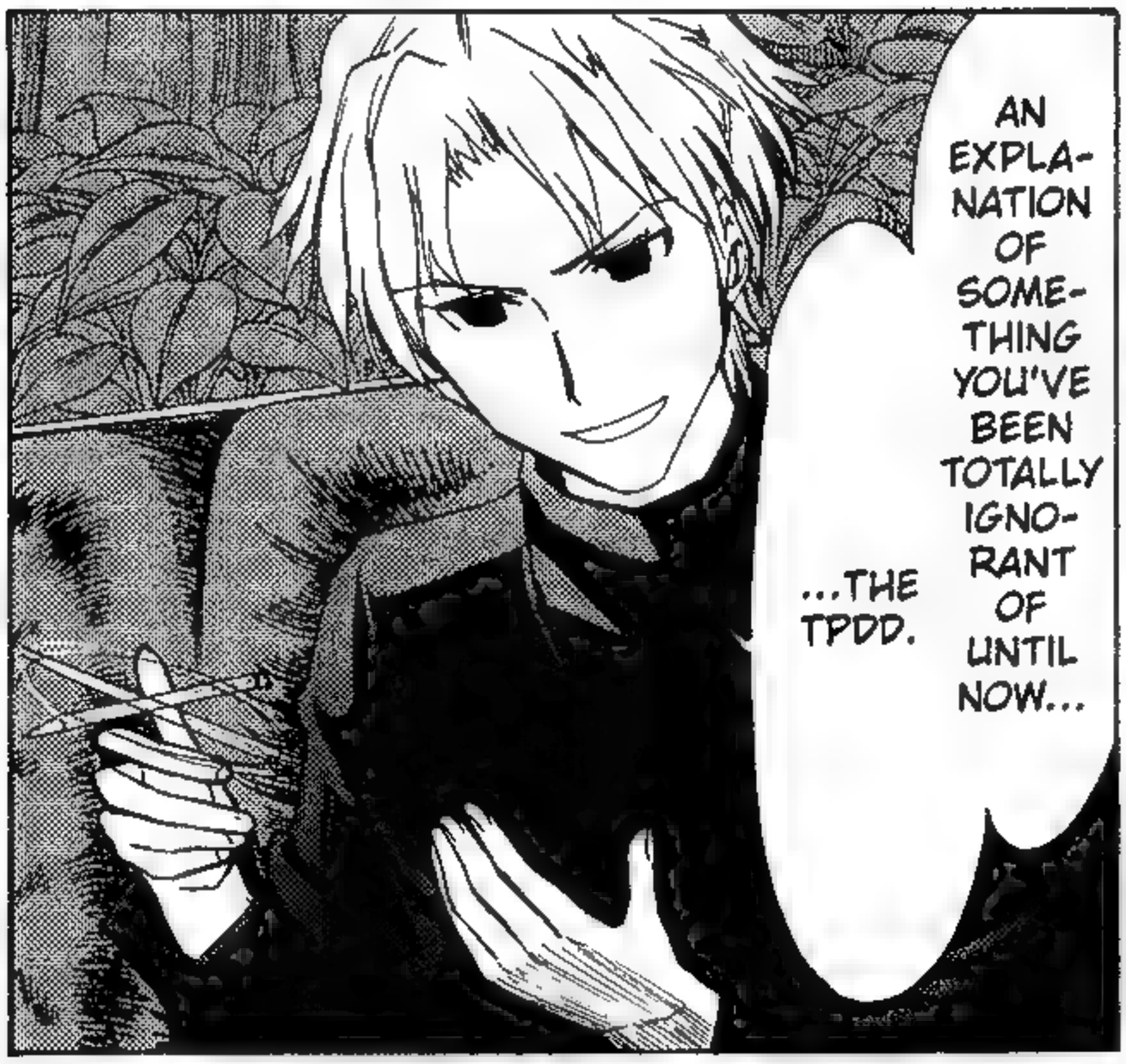
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST...

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH TRUTH MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIDING IN KOIZUMI'S LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS.

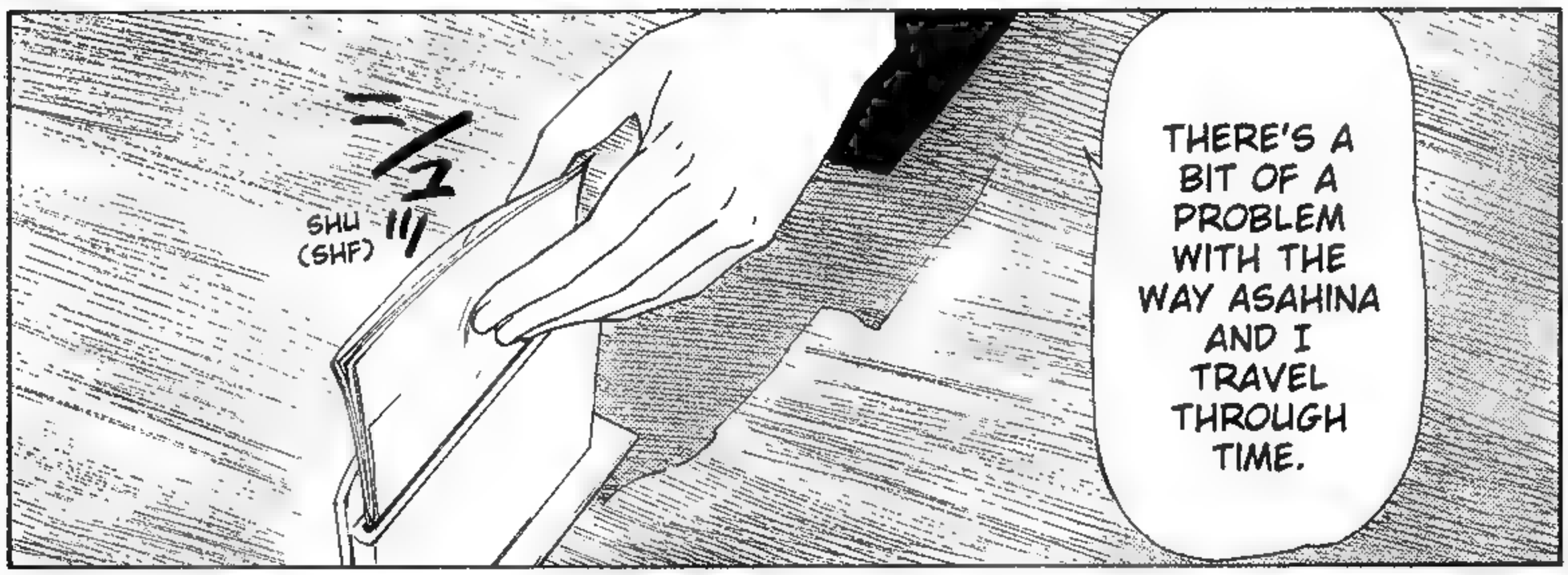
STILL, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HER TO JUST MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS UP...

OR WAS THERE?

IF SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO CONFUSE ME...


AN EXPLANATION OF SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORANT OF UNTIL NOW...
...THE TPDD.

HEH.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE YOU MAY FIND INTERESTING.


SHU (SHF)
THERE'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY ASAHINA AND I TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.

DO YOU FOLLOW ME SO FAR?
IN OTHER WORDS, WE TRAVEL BY POKING HOLES IN TIME.
THE LENGTHIER THE TIME JUMP BECOMES, THE MORE NUMEROUS THEY ARE.

プチ
PUCHI (POKE)
BECAUSE OF THE METHOD WE USE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID PENETRATING THE TIME PLANE.

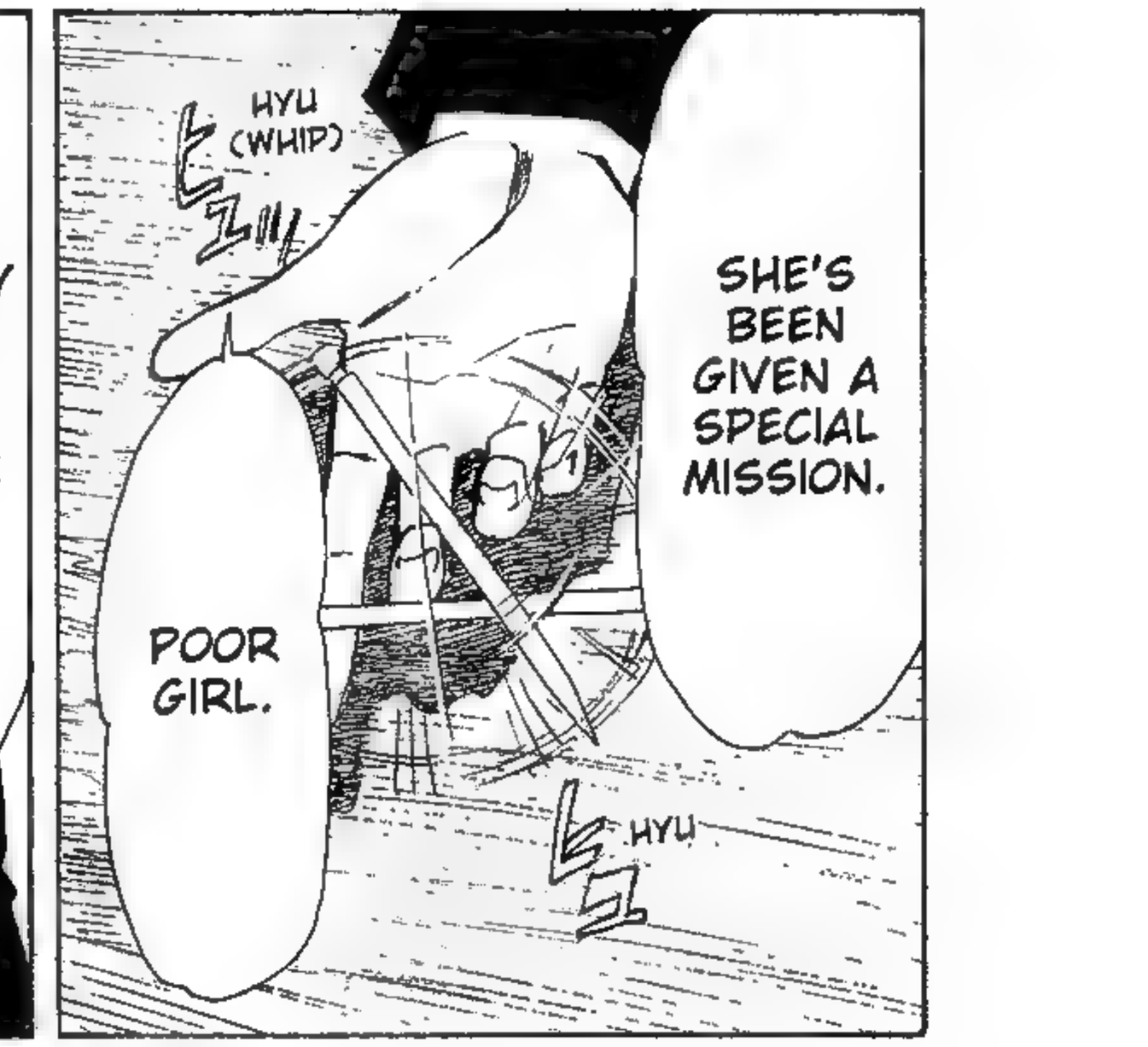
IT'S LIKE HOW A NEGLECTED LEAK IN A ROOF CAN LEAD TO THE HOUSE'S FRAME ROTTING.
THE HOLES MUST BE FILLED.

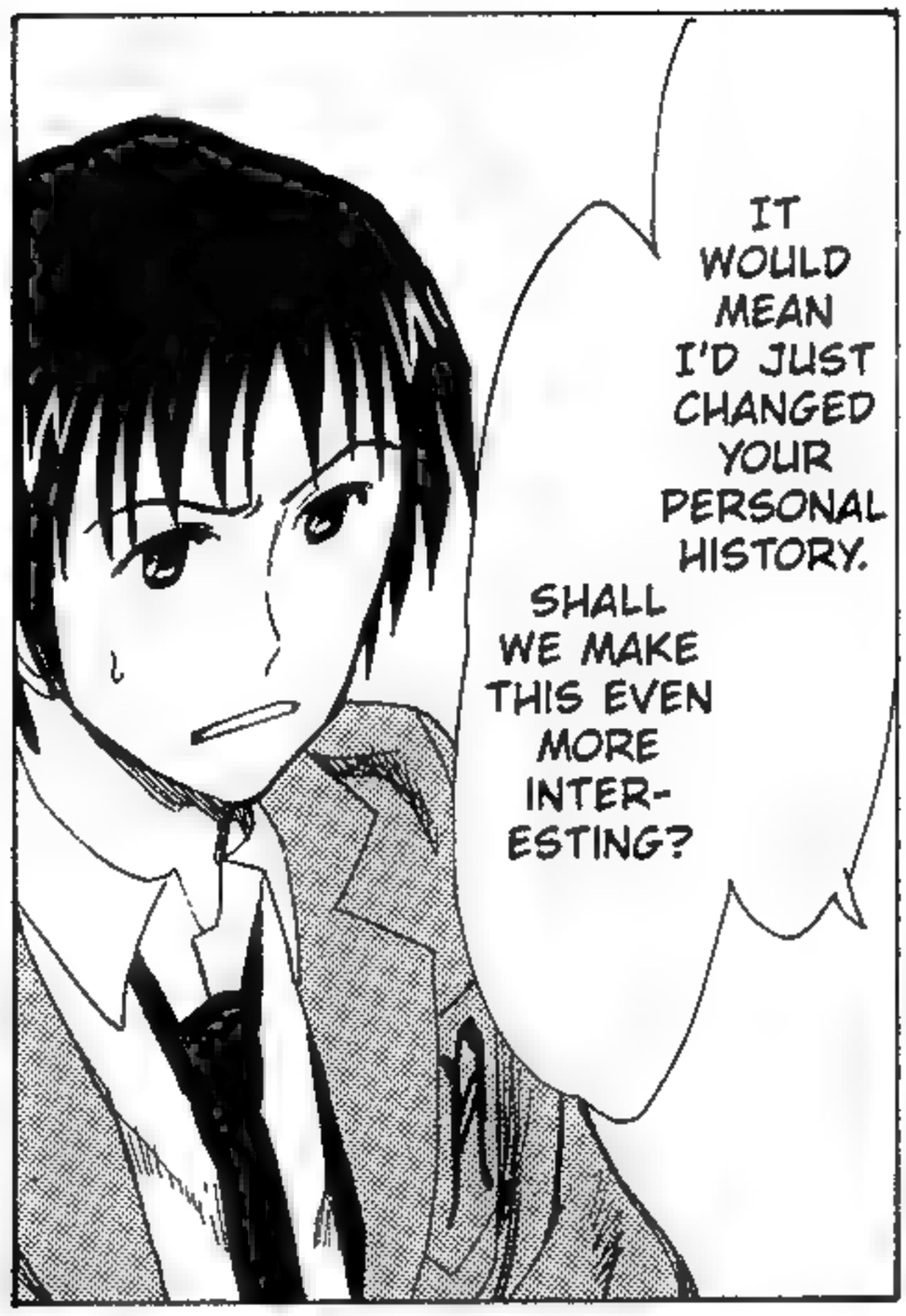
THE POINT IS THAT USE OF THE TPDD. IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE RISK OF DESTROYING EXISTING TIME.
BARAA (SCATTER)

SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT HERSELF, OF COURSE.
MIKURU ASAHINA IS AN EXCEPTION.

...IS TO REPAIR THOSE DISTORTIONS.
THE MAIN DUTY OF TEMPORAL FIELD AGENTS ...

CONSIDER THIS...
IT'S SUCH A CAREFULLY GUARDED SECRET THAT EVEN SHE WASN'T TOLD OF IT.


HYU (WHIP)
POOR GIRL.
SHE'S BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL MISSION.
HYU


IT WOULD MEAN I'D JUST CHANGED YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY.
SHALL WE MAKE THIS EVEN MORE INTER-ESTING?

WHAT IF ALL OF WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU WAS ACTUALLY INFORMATION THAT YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAVE?

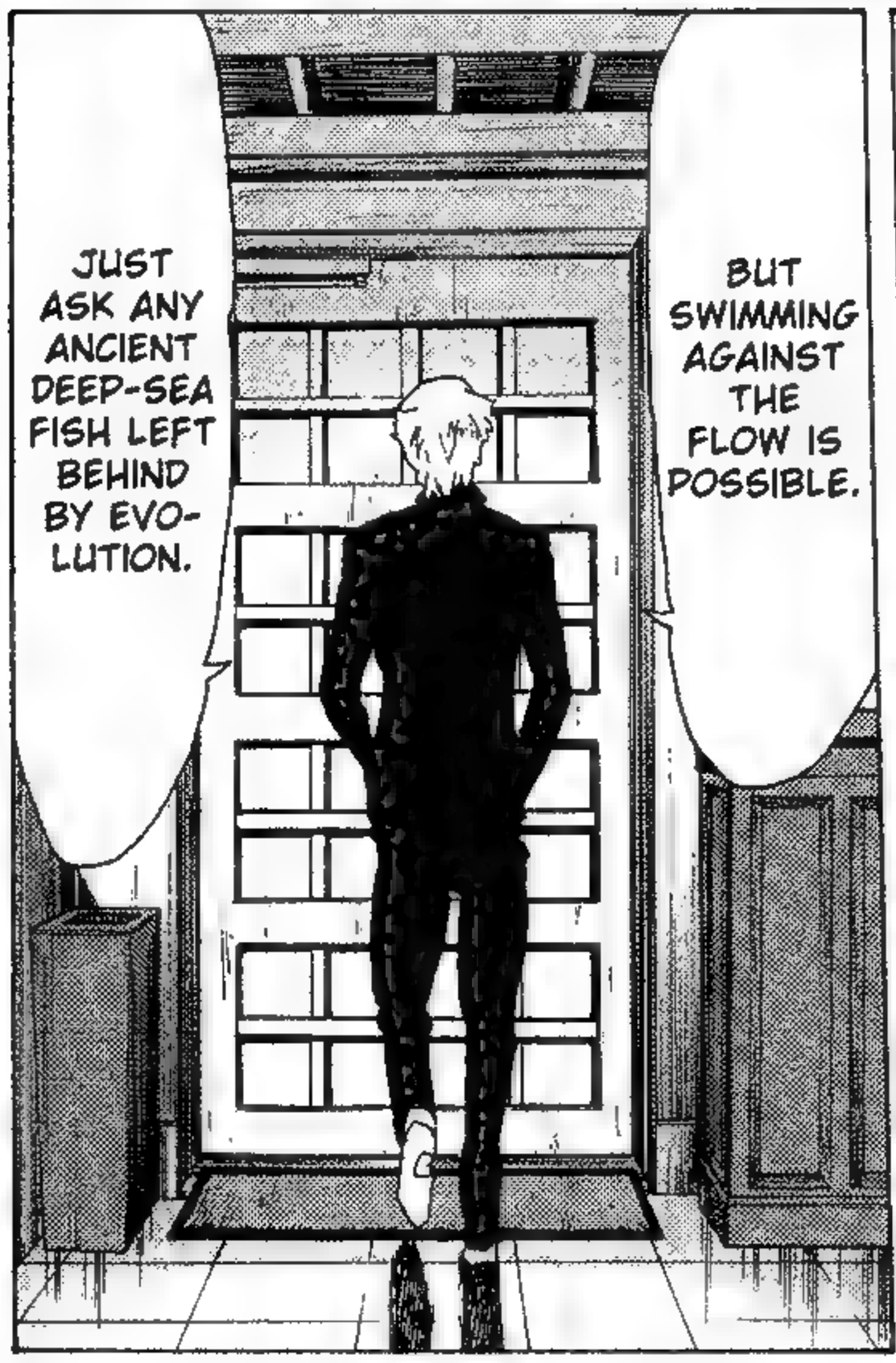
YOU JUST THINK THAT OVER.
DRINK
ONCE I SEE WHETHER YOUR PRIMITIVE BRAIN CAN COME UP WITH ANY ANSWERS ...
...I'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO.

NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD ME, YOU CAN'T HELP BEING INFLU-ENCED BY WHAT I'VE SAID.
THAT IS MY ADVANTAGE OVER YOU POOR PEOPLE IN THE PAST.

ANYWAY, HAPPY HOUR'S OVER. NO MORE FREEBIES.

... WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?
IF I TOLD YOU IT'S A FIXED EVENT ...

WHY ARE YOU GIVING US SO MUCH TIME?

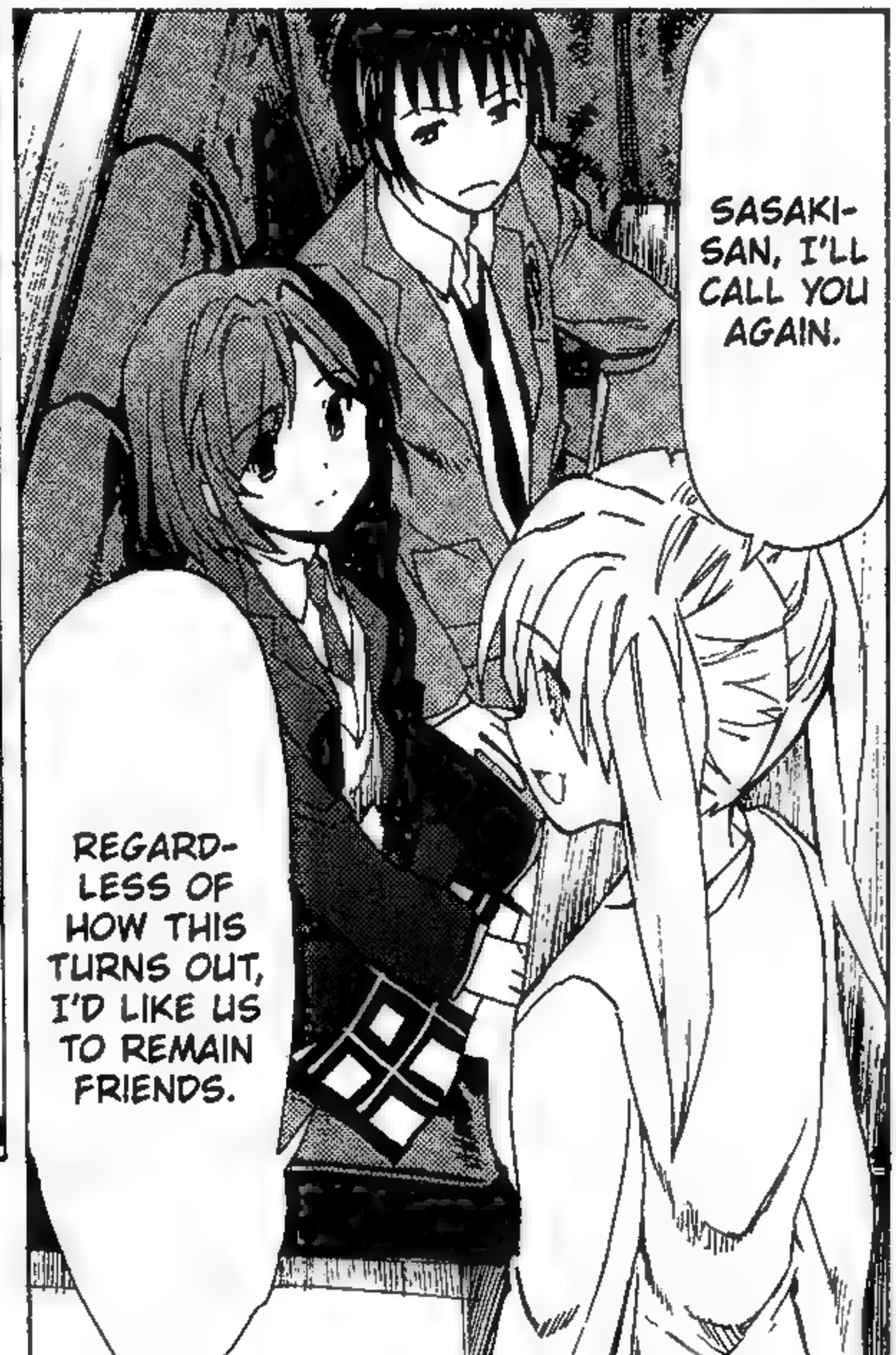

JUST ASK ANY ANCIENT DEEP-SEA FISH LEFT BEHIND BY EVO-LUTION.
BUT SWIMMING AGAINST THE FLOW IS POSSIBLE.

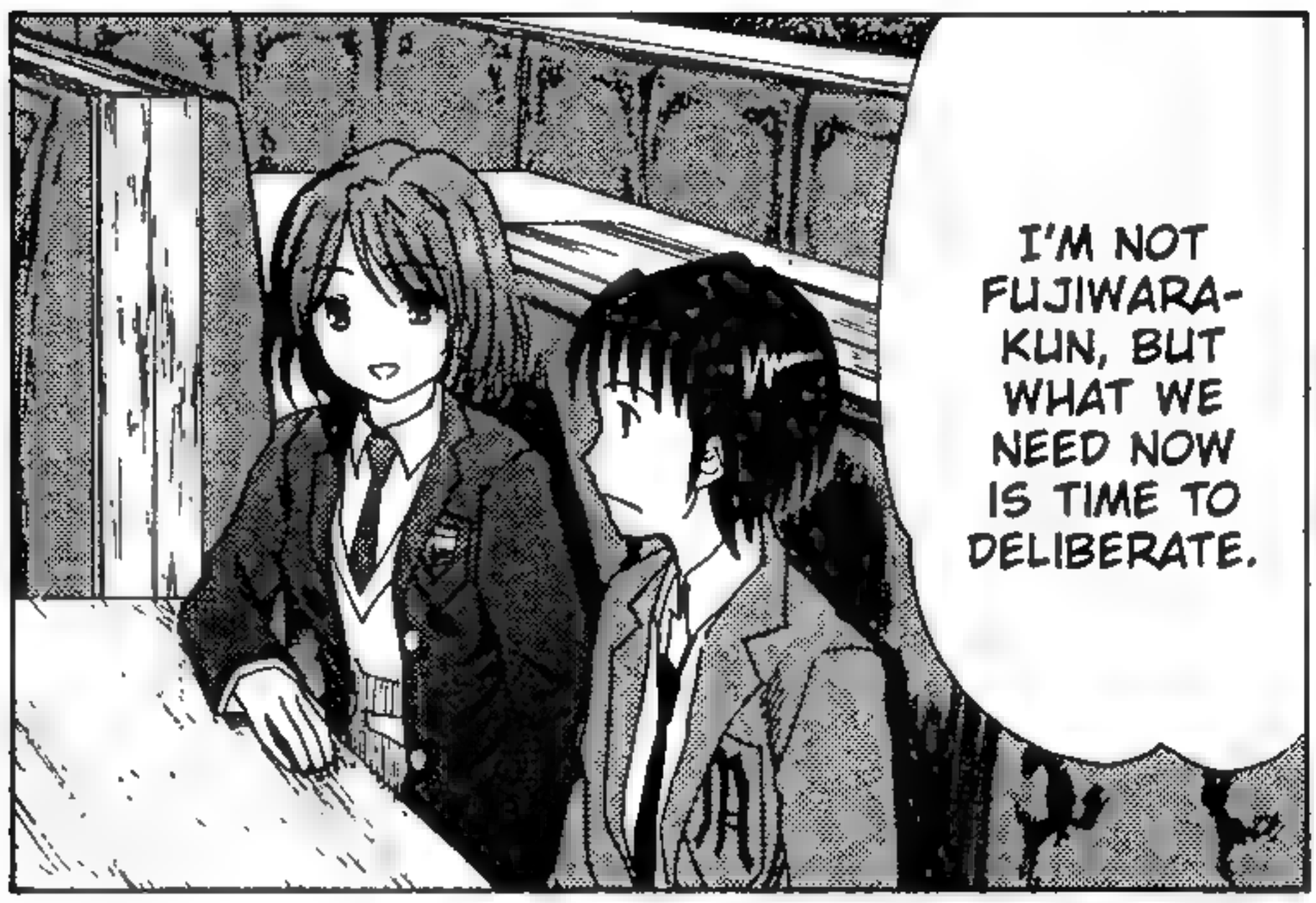
BUT IF THE FLOW HAS ALREADY BEEN SET, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S THE HEIGHT OF IDIOCY TO BE CON-STRAINED BY TIME.

UPSIE-DAISY.
YOU NEED TIME TO THINK, DON'T YOU?
THOUGH I DON'T RECOMMEND YOU THINK TOO MUCH.
TALK TO SASAKI-SAN AND MAKE UP YOUR MIND.

SU (RISE)
AND IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I MUST GET GOING TOO.

I'D VERY MUCH LIKE FOR US TO SIMPLY BE FRIENDS.
THAT WOULD BE NICE.


SASAKI-SAN, I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.
REGARDLESS OF HOW THIS TURNS OUT, I'D LIKE US TO REMAIN FRIENDS.


I'M NOT FUJIWARA-KUN, BUT WHAT WE NEED NOW IS TIME TO DELIBERATE.

KYON, WE SHOULD GET GOING TOO.

FORTU-NATELY, THERE'S STILL TIME LEFT.
IT WAS RUSHED AND UNPLEASANT AS MEETINGS GO, BUT I'M NOT READY TO CALL IT POINTLESS.

THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME-THING WE CAN DO.
GOOD POINT.
WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE THEM GIVE UP.

I HOPE SO, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DELIB-ERATE ABOUT.

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT?

AND YET IT JUST DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.

I DIDN'T WANT SASAKI TO HAVE THESE BIZARRE GODLIKE POWERS.
I WANTED MY NORMAL FRIEND TO STAY NORMAL.
HARUHI WAS ALREADY HARUHI, SO WHAT DID IT MATTER?
YOU DIDN'T SEE SHRINES CHANGING WHICH DEITY THEY WERE DEDICATED TO.

TO BE HONEST, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD DO.
IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP, I'D WELCOME IT.
KO

ALSO, KYON.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE BESIDES ME YOU CAN TALK TO?
KO (CLICK)
KO

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ASAHINA THE ELDER HASN'T SHOWN UP SO FAR...
HMM
MAYBE KOIZUMI?

YOU'RE NOT SLEEPWALKING WITH US, ARE YOU?

KUYOH-SAN.

COMPREHENSION COMPLETE.

EXECUTION CONCLUDED.

UM.

THE LAST PART. WERE YOU LISTENING?

NIKO (SMILE)

I AM NOT ASLEEP.

SFX: DO (STOMP) DO DO DO DO DO DO

TA (TAP)

HAA

HAA

HAA (PANT)

HEY, KYON.

IS THERE SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SASAKI-SAN.
HAS IT?

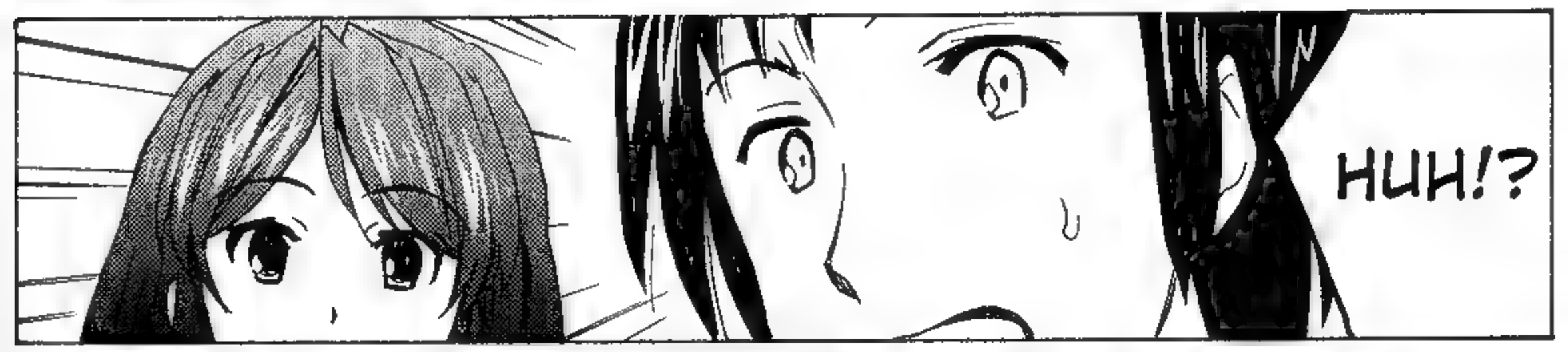
TA (TMP)
STRANGE RUNNING INTO YOU HERE.

HEYA ...
SASAKI-SAN, THIS IS TANIGUCHI.
AND THIS IS...

BA
BA (FWAP)
WHUH !?
...HUH?

DAMMIT, KYON ...

...HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?



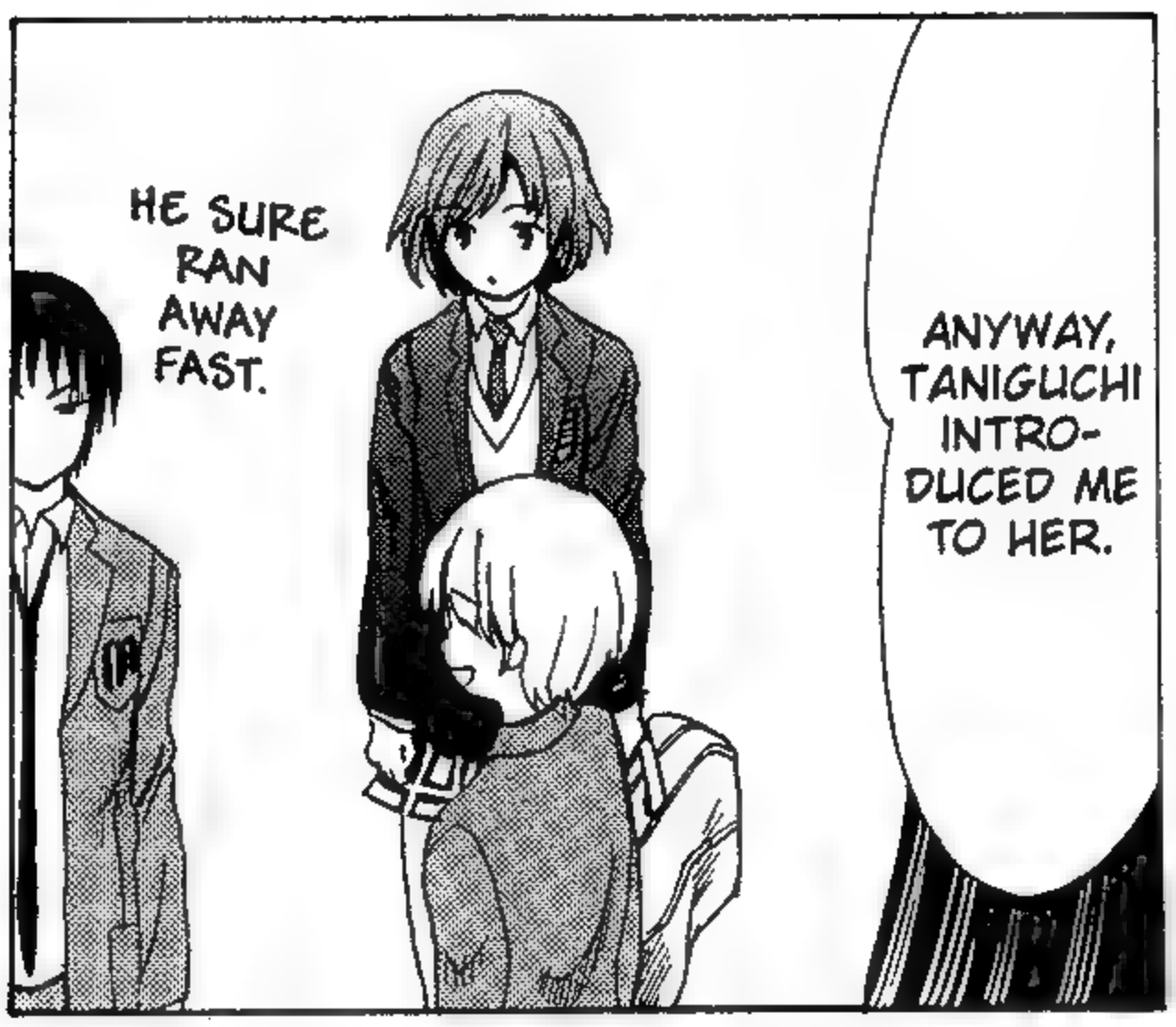
THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V : END

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI
β—8
THAT'S MY LINE, TANIGUCHI!
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU TWO SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET!
KYON... HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
EVEN I COULDN'T SEE KUYOH SOMETIMES, SO WHY DID TANIGUCHI KNOW HER?
IT COULDN'T BE JUST BECAUSE HE WAS SUCH A SKIRT-CHASER.

I THANK YOU... FOR THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

I...WILL NOT RETURN IT.

SURU (SHF)


HE SURE RAN AWAY FAST.
ANYWAY, TANIGUCHI INTRO-DUCED ME TO HER.

?
HUH?

AND ...
...YOU BROKE UP ABOUT A MONTH AGO, RIGHT?

...MY MEMORY SUPPORTS YOUR ACCURACY.
... YES.

GUH ...
WHAT THE HELL?

...CON-FIRMED.

...I WAS.

YOU WERE ALREADY HERE!?

I MEAN, BEFORE THAT THING SHE DID, YOU WERE ALREADY...

WHICH MEANS, BEFORE NAGA...

...IT WAS A MIS-TAKE.

WHY WERE YOU GOING OUT WITH TANI-GUCHI!?

WHEN DID YOU MEET SUOH-SAN, KYON?

THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD HIM WHEN THEY SPLIT UP.

THAT'S WHAT TANI-GUCHI SAID SHE SAID.

WHAT!?

QUITE AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE, ISN'T IT.
AND SHE'S TANIGUCHI'S EX ON TOP OF ALL THAT?

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, KYON MET HER THROUGH ME.
I MET KUYOH-SAN JUST RECENTLY.

SO THIS WAS THE GIRL TANIGUCHI HAD BEEN SEEING LAST DECEMBER?

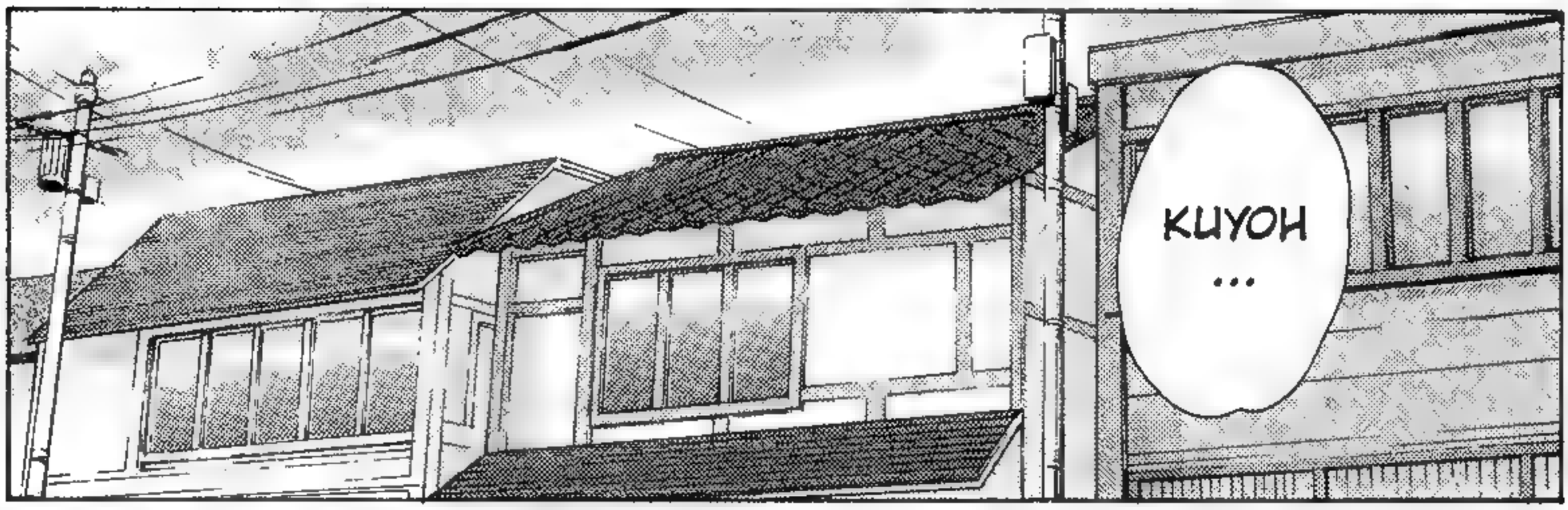
HEH HEH HEH.
THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND LIKE THE KIND OF THING YOU'D SAY, SASAKI-SAN.

BUT IN THIS CASE, PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL IT AN ACT OF GOD.
IF WE ASSUME THAT SYNCHRONICITY HAPPENS CONSTANTLY ...
...THEN ANY IMPROBABLE EVENT CAN BE DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF ITS PROBABILITY.

YEAH, SEE YA.

HEH HEH HEH.
PLUS I BETTER FIGURE OUT WHERE TANIGUCHI RAN OFF TO.

WELL, I SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.
I'D FEEL BAD IF I MESSED UP YOUR PLANS.


KUYOH ...

A MIS-TAKE ...
?

AND THEN YOU GOT CLOSE TO TANI-GUCHI.
WAS THAT TO CONTACT HARUHI AND ME?

YOU HAD ALREADY COME TO EARTH LAST DECEM-BER, RIGHT?

MIS-TOOK HIM... FOR YOU.

IT SEEMS THAT DATA WAS CON-FUSED SOME-WHERE ...

THE POSSI-BILITY OF JAMMING BY SOME PARTY...

...ALSO EXISTS.

TANIGUCHI, OF ALL PEOPLE?

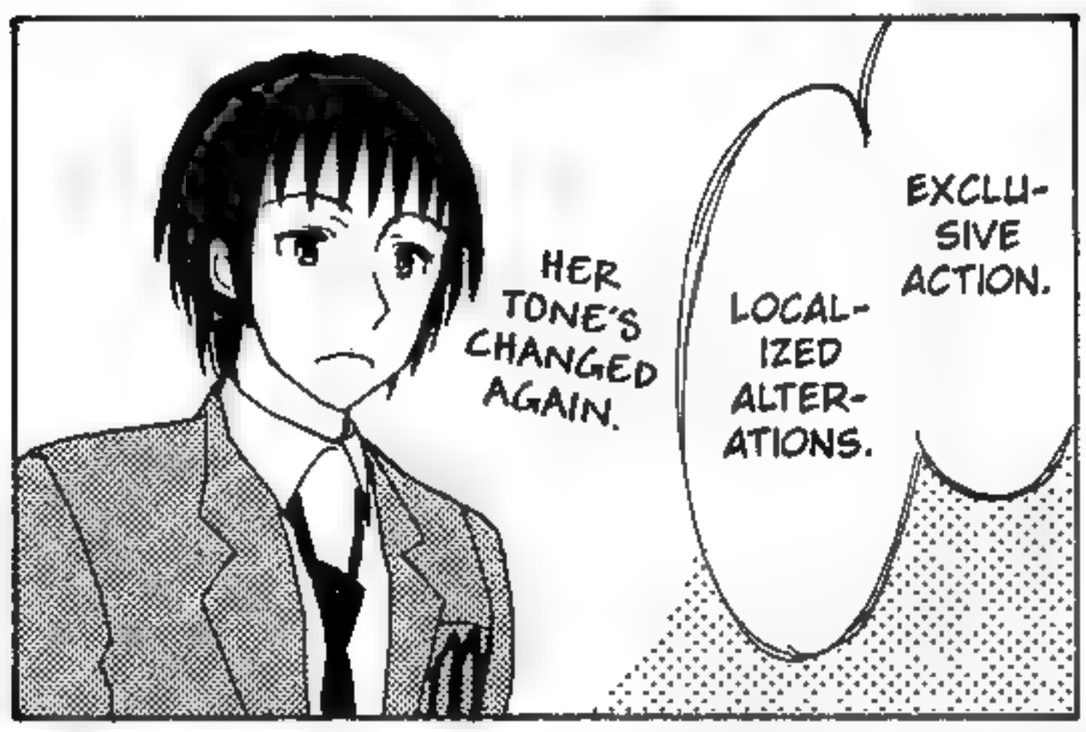
WAY TO DESTROY MY SELF-CONFIDENCE ...

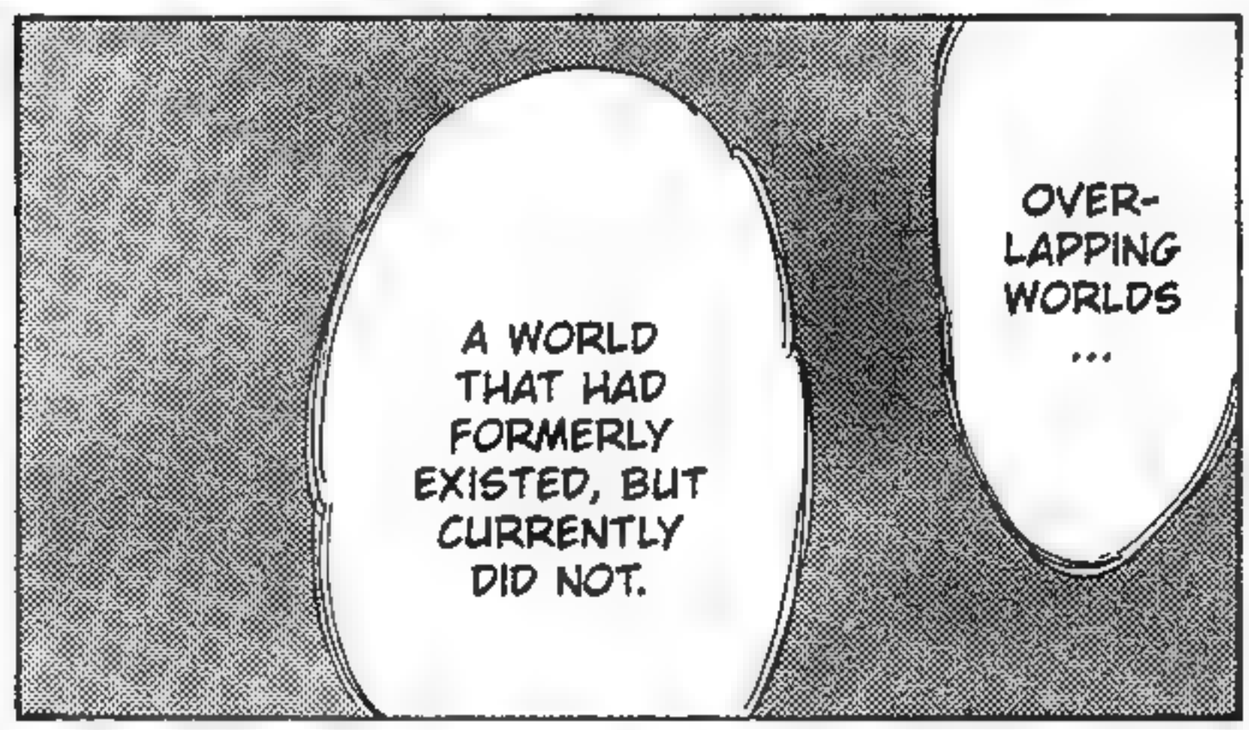
SO SHE CONFUSED TANIGUCHI FOR ME AND STARTED GOING OUT WITH HIM?

PAKU CAHD

UM...

WHEN NAGATO SCREWED UP THE WORLD, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?





IT WAS THERE.

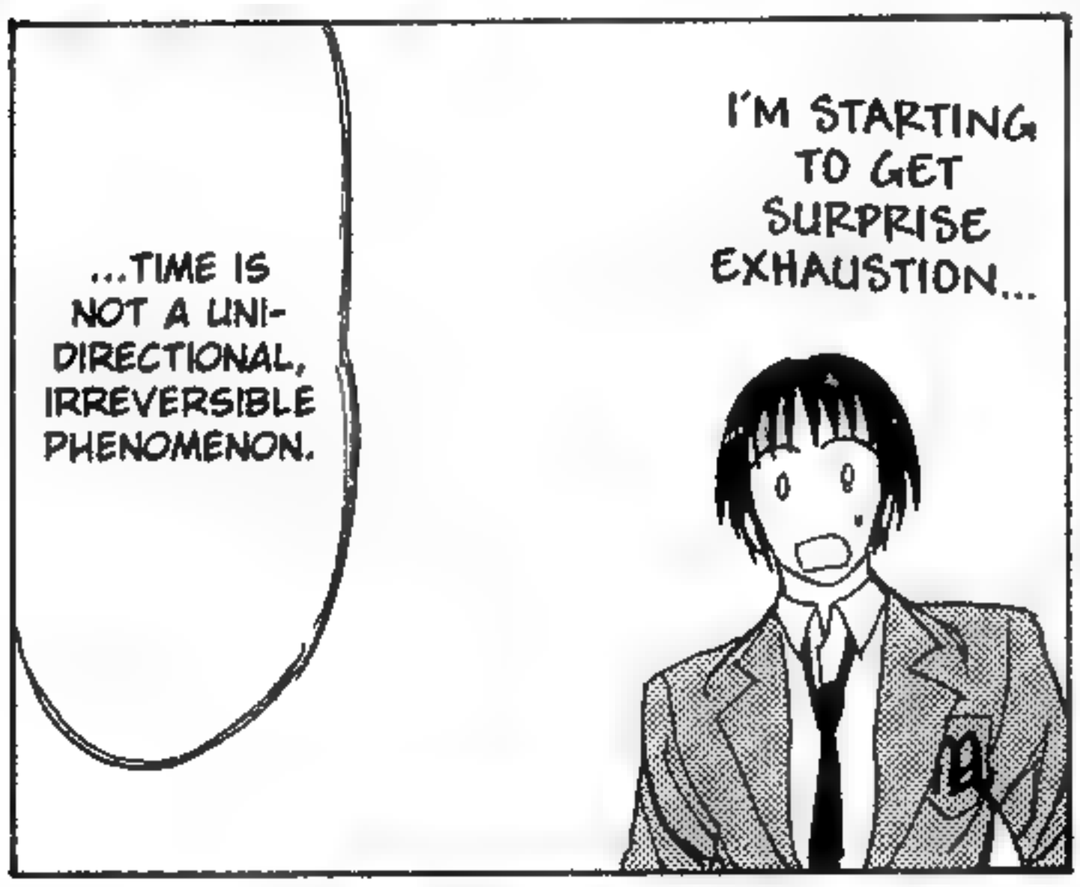
A YESTERDAY WITH NO TODAY...A TOMORROW WITH NO YESTERDAY.

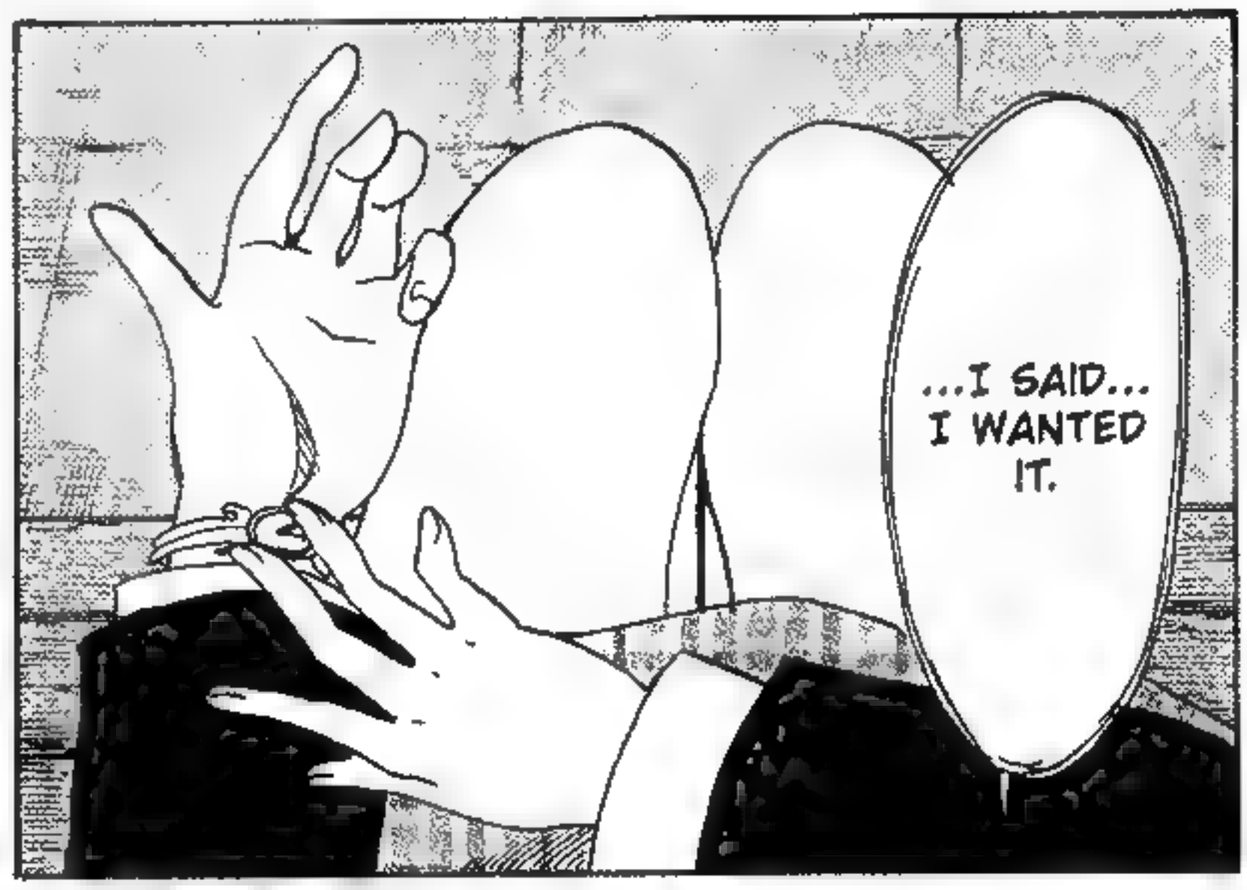
FASCI-NATING.

A TODAY WITH NO TOMOR-ROW.

...YOU MUST HAVE SOME LINGERING AFFECTION FOR HIM.
BUT IF YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE WATCH HE GAVE YOU...

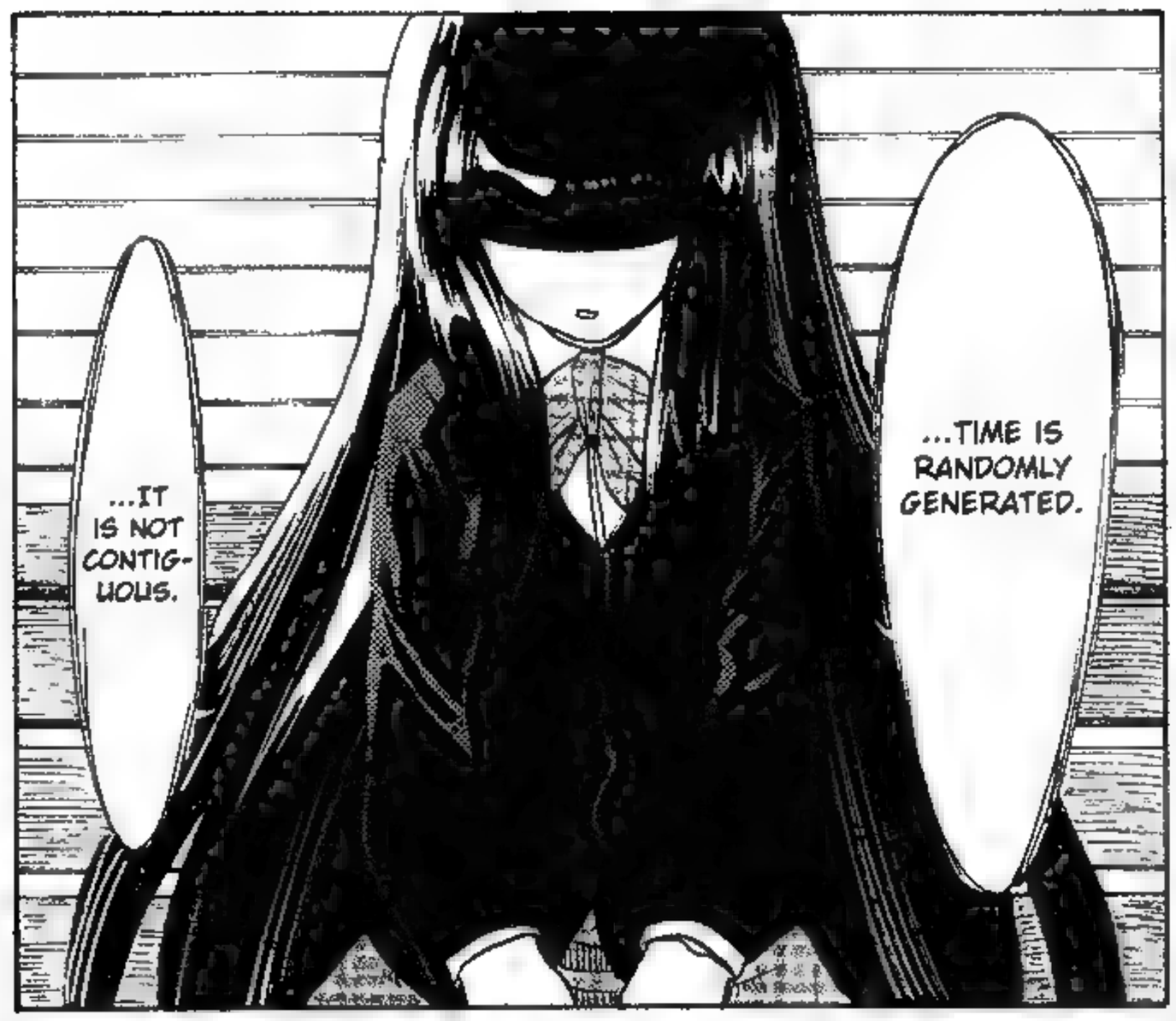
SHE SOUNDS MORE LIKE A FANATIC THAN A LUNATIC.


...TIME IS NOT A UNI-DIRECTIONAL, IRREVERSIBLE PHENOMENON.
I'M STARTING TO GET SURPRISE EXHAUSTION...


...I SAID... I WANTED IT.

IT'S JUST A COLLECTION OF SPRINGS AND GEARS.
HENCE THE WATCH?

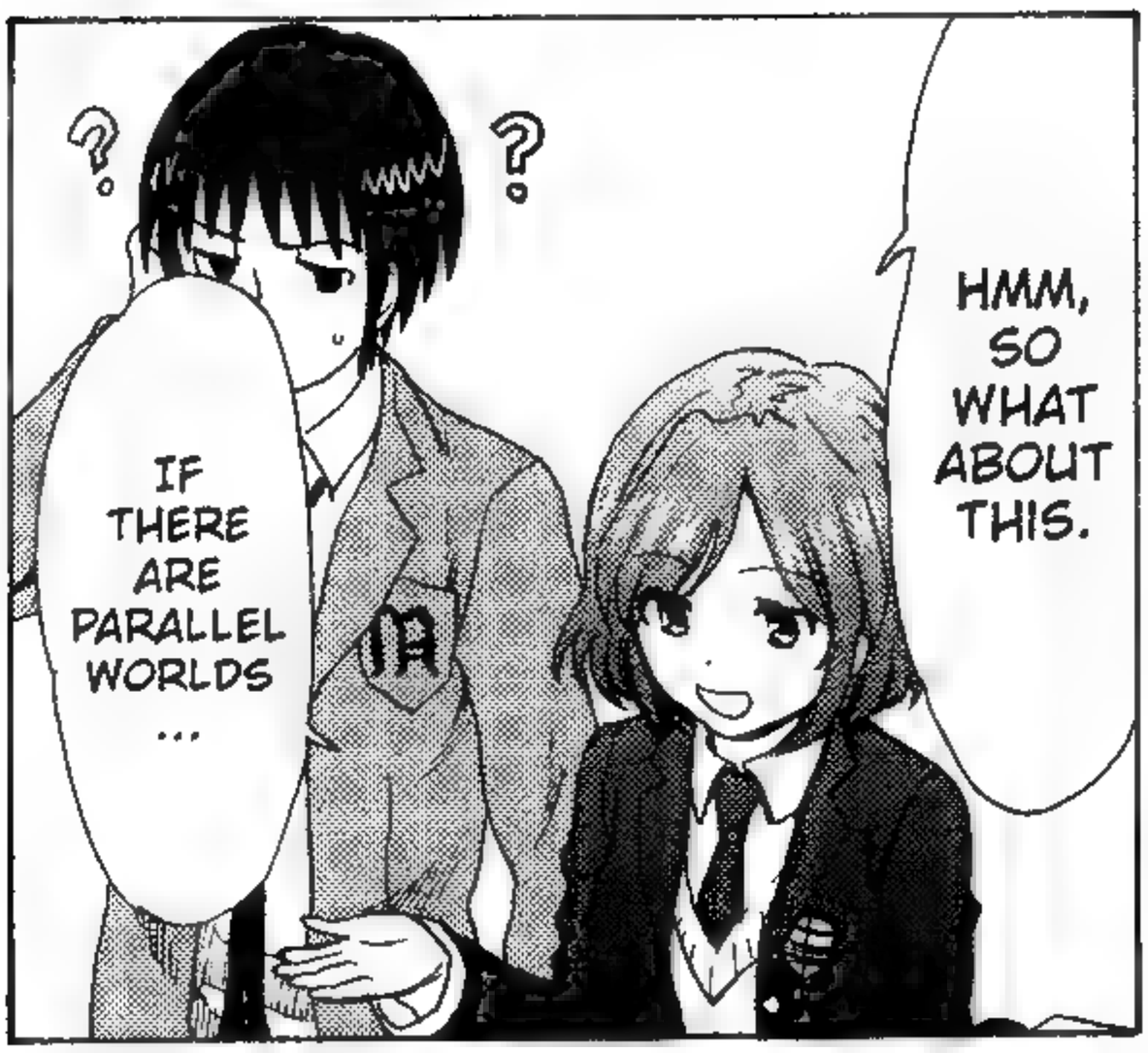
TO ENGAGE IN BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES ON THIS PLANET'S SURFACE, IT WAS NECESSARY.
TO STABILIZE PSEUDO-OBJECTIVE TIME FLOW.

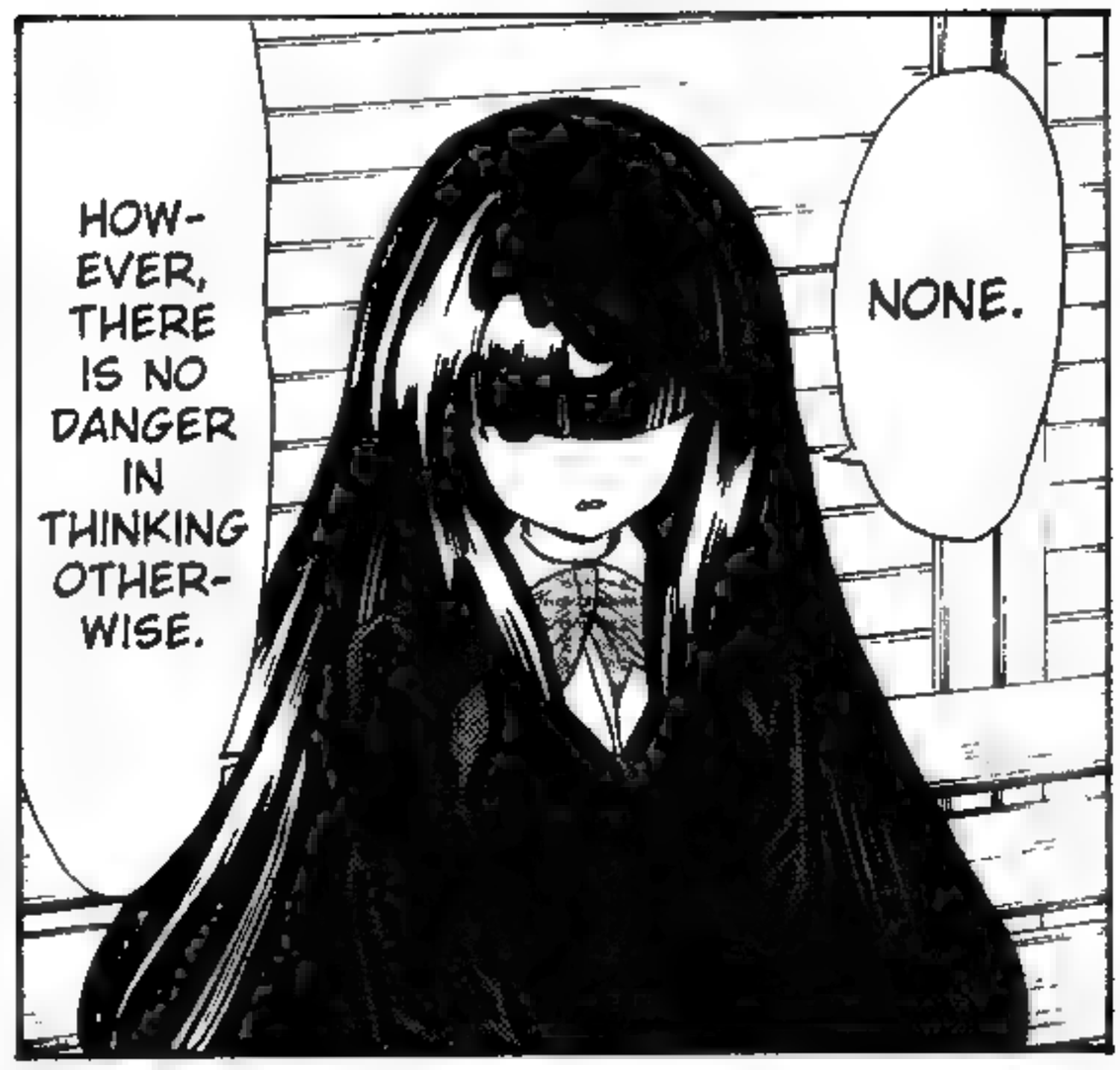

...IT IS NOT CONTIG-UOUS.
...TIME IS RANDOMLY GENERATED.

A WATCH DOESN'T DICTATE THE FLOW OF TIME.
IT'S JUST A CONVENIENT WAY OF NUMBERING THE PRO-GRESSION OF PEOPLE'S ACTIVITY IN THE DAY.

HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THEM?
SO WHAT ABOUT PAST AND FUTURE?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HOW MUCH TIME IS THERE BETWEEN ONE SECOND AND THE NEXT?
SHOW ME PROOF BY INFINITE DESCENT.
...TIME IS FINITE.
SHE'S TAKEN THE BAIT.
OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT AKASHIC RECORDS EXIST?


IF THERE ARE PARALLEL WORLDS ...
HMM, SO WHAT ABOUT THIS.


HOW-EVER, THERE IS NO DANGER IN THINKING OTHER-WISE.
NONE.

REALLY?

...NOTHING UNOB-SERVABLE EXISTS.

AS EVERETT WOULD HAVE SAID.
...CAN THEY BE INFINITE IN NUM-BER?

I SEE.

...AL-READY RECOR-DED.
... QUES-TIONS, POINT-LESS.

ALL I'VE UNDERSTOOD IS THAT SHE'S FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM US HUMANS.

YEAH, UH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I SEE"?

YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN THAT A LITTLE BETTER?

SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THINGS WILL TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

HUMANITY HAS ACCOMPLISHED MANY FEATS THAT PESSIMISTS WOULD HAVE CALLED IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT NECESSARILY.

SO SOMEDAY...

UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND IS ITSELF PROGRESS.

THAT'S AN ALIEN FOR YOU, I GUESS.

HEY, KUYOH!

...HUH?

DON'T OVERESTIMATE HER.
KYON.

WE MAY BE SAD, LIMITED CREATURES, BOUND BY GRAVITY...
JUST AS WE CAN'T UNDER-STAND HER ...
...SHE CAN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND US.

I'LL THINK THINGS OVER.

FEAR IS OFTEN GREATER THAN THE DANGER, AFTER ALL.

KAA (CAW)

KAA

KAA

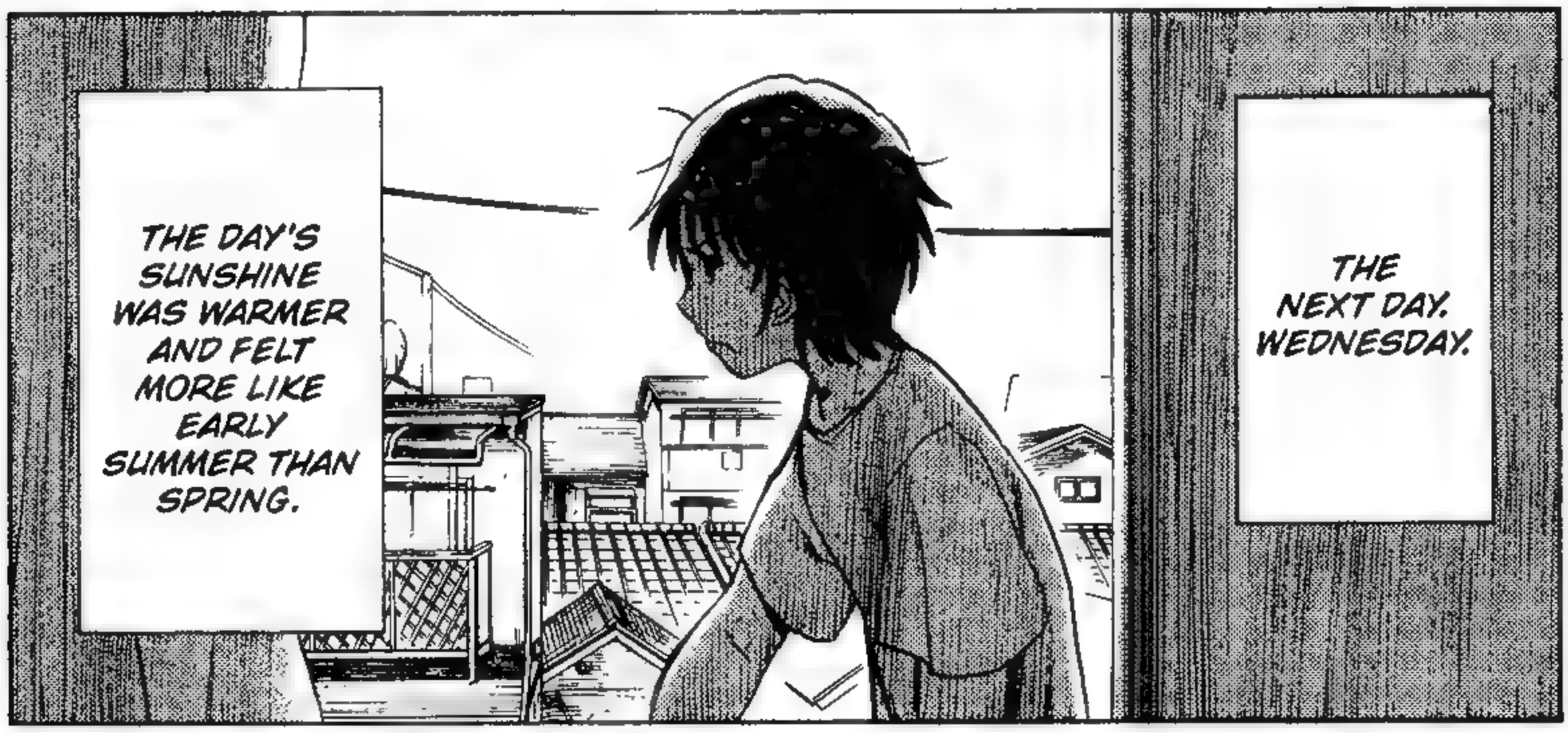
FAREWELL FOR NOW, KYON.

AND...

...IT'S NOT CERTAIN THAT WE OURSELVES WON'T EVOLVE FURTHER.

...BUT WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH VALUE TO DRAW HER TO EARTH.

シャッ
SHA (SHHK)
UH ...



α—9

IT'S TOO PEACEFUL...

WHAT MADE ME MURMUR THAT ALOUD?

I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF.

I JUST FELT LIKE LIKE I HAD TO COOK SOME-THING.
I WONDER WHY.

I MADE MYSELF LUNCH.

IS YOUR MOM A LOUSY COOK OR SOME-THING?

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DON'T USUALLY BRING YOUR LUNCH?
IS THERE SOME REASON FOR THAT?

MOM—ER, MY MOTHER'S SENSE OF TASTE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL PEOPLE'S...

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

WHAT WAS THIS FEELING?

HELLO!

TO BE HONEST...

...IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO AVOID GOING TO THE CLUB ROOM...

THIS TOTALLY ORDINARY CONVER-SATION FELT SOMEHOW VERY IMPORTANT.

LIKE A QUIET, CALM INTER-MISSION.

HELLO!

WE LOST ONE YESTERDAY, SO NOW WE'VE GOT A FULL HOUSE.
SO THERE ARE THREE BOYS AND TWO GIRLS LEFT.
ONE, TWO...

...THAT HAD HAUNTED ME SINCE I AWOKE?
WHAT WAS THIS NAME-LESS DREAD ...
AND THE FINAL SOS BRIGADE ADMISSION EXAMINATION WILL NOW BEGIN!

I DON'T WANT TO WASTE A LOT OF TIME MESSING AROUND.

"FINAL..." THIS IS IT?

ALL I NEED TO SEE NOW IS GUTS!

PLUS I'VE ALREADY GATHERED MORE THAN ENOUGH DATA.

TAN (SLAM)

THAT'S HOW IT IS.

THE TRIAL MEMBER-SHIP PERIOD WILL SOON BE OVER.

IT'S BEST TO DECIDE THIS KIND OF THING QUICKLY AND CLEANLY.

SIGN: FINAL SCREENING HERE

ARMBAND: CHIEF

TIME TO GET CHANGED!

YOU ALL BROUGHT YOUR GYM CLOTHES, RIGHT?

最終審査
こちらです↓

BUT THE TRUE TRIAL STARTS HERE.

AND IT'S EARNED YOU THE RIGHT TO TAKE THIS FINAL TEST.

YOU'VE ALL DONE VERY WELL SO FAR.

SIGN: FINAL SCREENING HERE

終審査
ちらです↓

BISHI (WHAP)

I'LL JUST SAY NOW THAT IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT TOUGHER THAN WHAT YOU'VE DONE SO FAR.

YOU'LL NEED STRENGTH, GUTS, COURAGE.

GENERICALLY SPEAKING...

I GUESS.

YEAH, BUT ANYWAY ...

SHE'S GIVING QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE SPEECH. THAT'S OUR BRIGADE CHIEF.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE PERSISTENCE TO NEVER GIVE UP!

THE FINAL TEST IS... A MARATHON!

BA (WHAP)

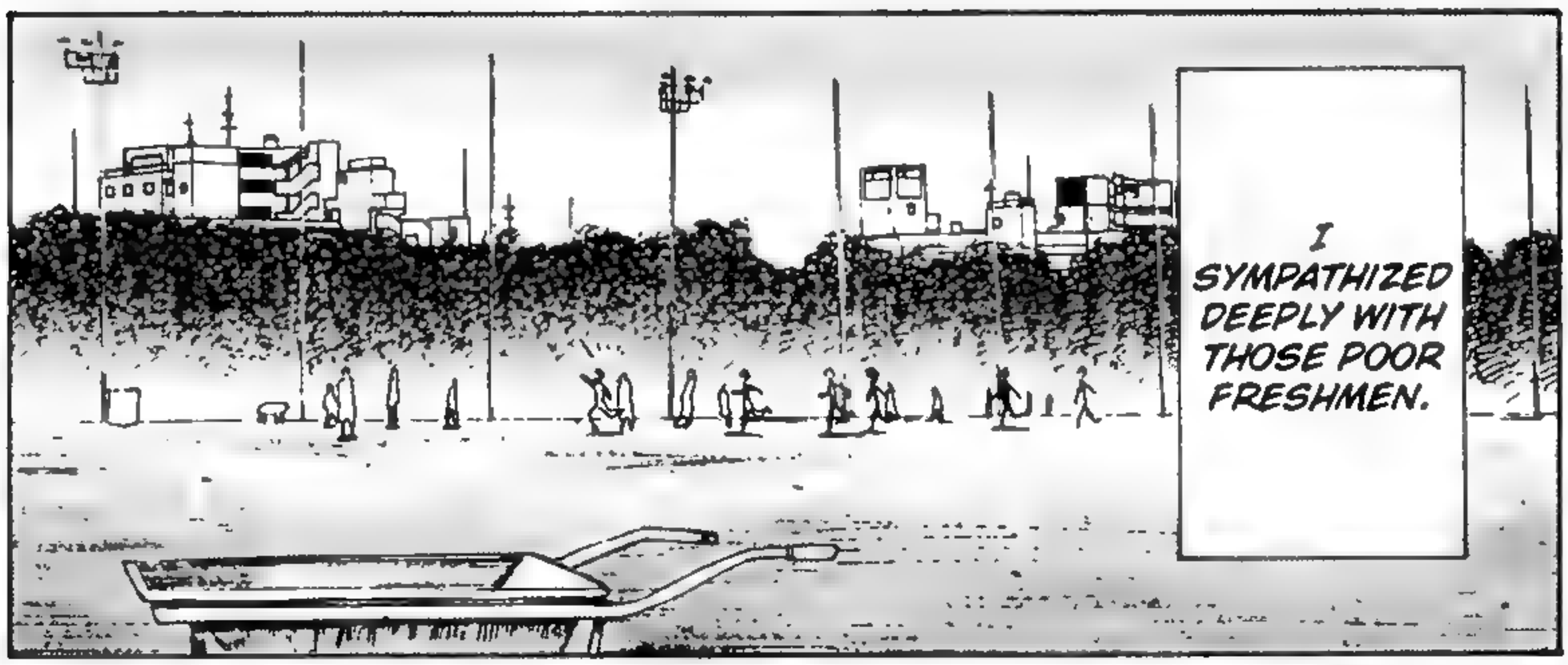
...WHY IS HARUHI WEARING HER GYM CLOTHES?

SO FOLLOW ME CLOSELY, GOT IT?

THIS IS ALL FOR THE NOBLEST OF CAUSES.

DA (DASH)

OKAY, START!


I SYMPATHIZED DEEPLY WITH THOSE POOR FRESHMEN.

I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T THE USUAL NONSENSICAL DEMANDS...
NICE AND SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?
AFTER ALL THIS, IT COMES DOWN TO JUST RUNNING, HUH?

...ARE THEY ALL, YOU KNOW, CLEAN?
THOSE FRESHMEN RUNNING THAT POINTLESS MARATHON ...
HEY, KOI-ZUMI.

...THERE IS ONE STUDENT WHO WORRIES ME.

BUT OF COURSE. NO NEED TO WORRY.
AL-THOUGH ...

HA (PANT)
HA
HA
HA
SHE'S DEFINITELY A NORMAL HUMAN, BUT...

...I THINK I'LL KEEP THAT A SECRET FOR NOW.
THE HELL?
IT'S A TRIVIAL THING, REALLY.

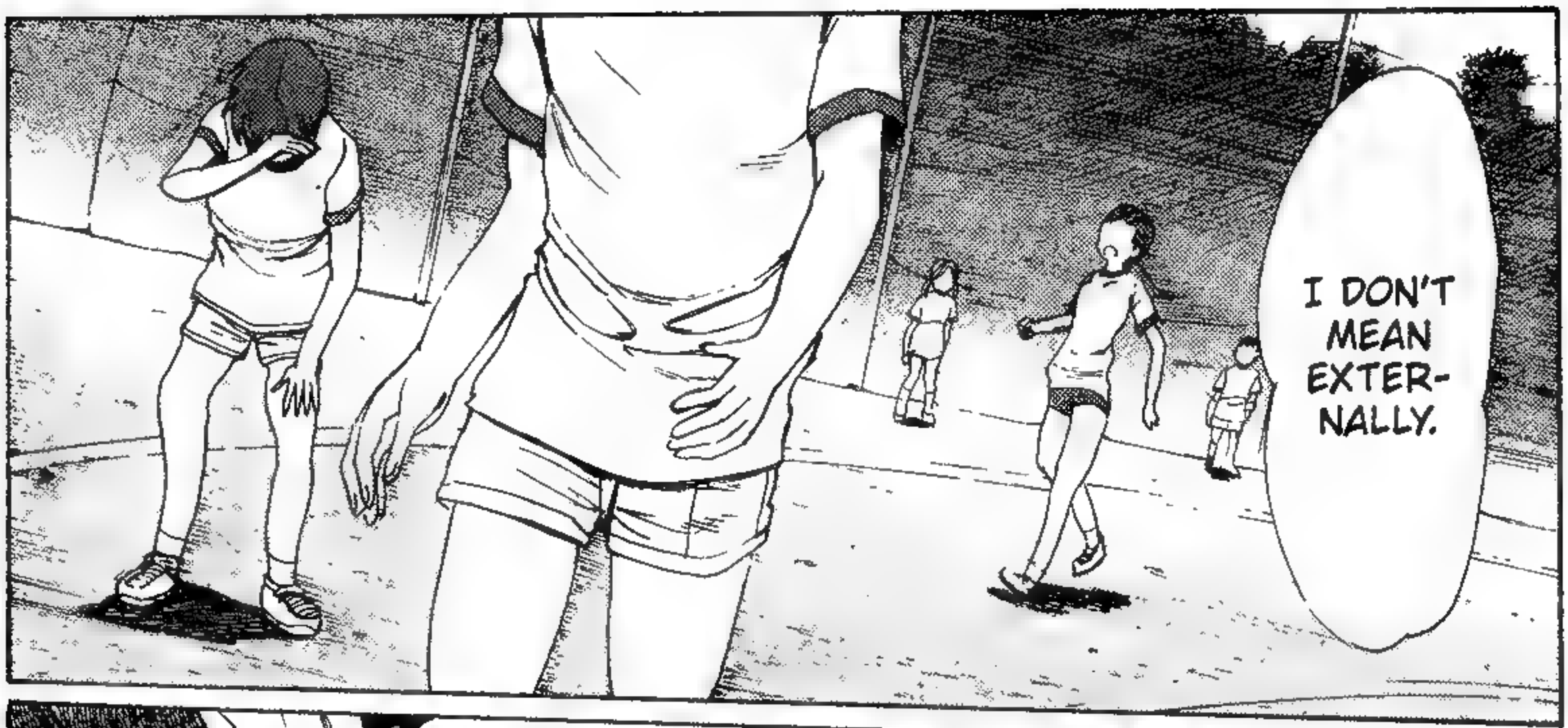
YOU KNOW HER ORIGINS, RIGHT?
YES, WE INVES-TIGATED HER.
SHE WAS A SLIGHTLY SPECIAL CASE, BUT...

STILL ...
INDEED, SHE MAY EVEN HELP US.
WE'VE CONCLUDED IT'S NOTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY HARM US.

IT'S SOLELY REGARDING MYSELF.
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE NEW CANDI-DATES.

...I'VE BEEN FEELING A SENSE OF UNEASE THAT'S DIFFICULT TO VER-BALIZE.
IT'S JUST, LATELY...

IT'S LIKE I'M GETTING FAINTER...
HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...


I DON'T MEAN EXTER-NALLY.

...OR WHETHER IT'S SOME UNREAL PHANTOM WORLD ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF IS DREAMING.
HA
HA
HA
HAA
IT'S MORE LIKE WONDERING WHETHER WHAT I'M THINKING IS REALLY MY OWN FREE WILL...
HA (PANT)

AND I DOUBT THE AGENCY WILL NEED TO ACT FOR A WHILE.
I'M SURE IT IS.
SUZUMIYA-SAN IS ENJOYING HERSELF.
I HOPE THIS IS JUST A PERSONAL PROBLEM.

HAA
YOU... YOU DID VERY WELL.
WERE YOU ON THE TRACK TEAM?
HAA

HAA (PANT)
HAA
L- LET'S... LET'S STOP HERE FOR TODAY.
ZEI ZEI (WHEEZE)

NO...
...I'VE STAYED A FREE AGENT IN ALL MY CLUB ACTIVITIES.
WHAT I'VE BEEN AIMING FOR IS THE SOS BRIGADE!!
GOO (RUMBLE)

I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS DAY, TO GET IN NO MATTER WHAT!

HAA

HAA

HAA

I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD!

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO CATCH THE MOON'S REFLECTION IN THE WATER...

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!

...I'LL DO IT!

BAAAN (BAAAM)

HAA (PANT)
HAA
HAA
SU (LIFT)
MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR TENACITY.
YOU RAN WELL.
ZEI (WHEEZE)
ZEI
ZEI
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD MATCH MY STAMINA.
CORPSE
TO BE HONEST, I'M SURPRISED.
CURSED
CURSED
MY CONCERNS WERE NOW FOCUSED ON ONE POINT.
AND THAT WAS...
GA (GRAB)

WAS SHE A POWER THAT HAD SOMEHOW SLIPPED PAST BOTH NAGATO AND KOIZUMI?

SHE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ONE, BUT...

...DID SHE KNOW...?

WELL.

BUT LISTEN CARE-FULLY...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO PASSED.

ワアッ

WAA (WHOO)

OKAY!!

BI (JAB)

THIS WAS ONLY THE FIRST APTI-TUDE TEST.

THERE MIGHT BE A BIT MORE, JUST SO YOU KNOW.

HOW MANY SPECIES WAS I GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH?

PLEASE, NO.

SURELY SHE WASN'T A FIFTH POWER ...?

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

TO BE CONTINUED

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

⑱

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